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Amir cancels Eid ceremonies in sympathy with Iran

KUWAIT, June 27, (AP): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, has cancelled ceremonies marking the Eid Al Adha feast in sympathy with the earthquake disaster that has hit Iran, an official announcement said today.

"In sympathy with the plight of the Muslim people of neighbouring Iran following the disastrous earthquake which claimed thousands of victims, the Amir Court announces that the Amir will not receive well-wishers as usual for Eid Al Adha," said the announcement.

Each year, the Amir, like leaders in the rest of the countries on the Arabian peninsula, marks the beginning of the two main Islamic feasts by receiving long queues of well-wishers at his palace after the dawn prayers.

Eid Al Adha or the feast of sacrifice falls next Monday and commemorates Prophet Abraham's (PBUH) readiness to sacrifice his son to God. The other feast which falls two months earlier is Eid Al Fitr, ending the Ramadan month of fasting.

Sheikh Jaber's gesture follows the improvement in Kuwaiti relations with Iran that began following the Persian state's acceptance of the ceasefire that halted its eight-year Iraq-Iran war two years ago. During the war, Kuwait was the repeated target of Iranian missile and ship attacks, as well as Iranian masterminded internal acts of terrorism.

Kuwait and its other Gulf Arab neighbours, including Iraq, were among the first to send condolences to Iranian President Hashemi Rفسanjani.

Lanka 'maids' minister disguised in Kuwait

Don't go ... I've never seen such misery

COLOMBO, June 27, (Reuters): Colombo has banned Sri Lankan women from going to Kuwait to work because women were being forced into prostitution, government officials said.

"I appeal to our women not to go to Kuwait anymore. It is like buying a ticket to hell," Labour Minister M.G. Premachandira told reporters recently after secretly visiting Kuwait disguised as an engineer.

The ban was announced last week and was due to be fully implemented this week, Labour Ministry officials said.

"When I saw how poor Lankan women taken there as housemaids were being auctioned for prostitution, my blood boiled," said Premachandira, who said he visited Kuwait earlier this month.

In Kuwait, the Social Affairs Ministry said the Sri Lankan labour minister last visited the country about 18 months ago and declined to comment on the report.

Of the 70,000 Sri Lankan women who had sought domestic work in Kuwait, 17,000 were without jobs, he said.

"We won't approve any contracts in Kuwait," Labour Secretary Justin Dias said. He said 100 maids came to the Sri Lankan embassy in Kuwait each day to complain of mistreatment by employers. Some were forced to work for 12 hours a day and then sent to other houses to do additional jobs.

"The girls pay money to agents here and go there thinking they have jobs and then end up stranded," Dias said.

Two rooms in the embassy were full of women who have nowhere to go, the secretary said. Some turn to prostitution to survive.

Premachandira said that on his visit to Kuwait, Dias and himself, both disguised, visited a building where 150 "agencies" offered Sri Lankan women to customers seeking prostitutes.

"Photographs of all these girls were in files, with prices marked, we could choose any of them," he said.

"They (the women) told us, with tears trickling down their cheeks, how they had been duped by agents, and the pitiful conditions in which they were now," Premachandira said.

"Most of them said they could not go back to their homes now as they could not be accepted by their parents and husbands. They preferred to commit suicide."

"I have never seen such misery."

Quake zone chopper crash kills Iranian MP

TEHRAN, June 27, (Agencies): An army helicopter carrying relief workers crashed in Iran's earthquake disaster zone today killing a Member of Parliament. Forty of the 49 survivors were injured, the official news agency Irna reported.

Irna named the MP as Mohammad Hossein Eftekhari, a Muslim cleric who represented Fuman, one of the towns of Gilan province devastated by last Thursday's quake, which killed about 40,000 people.

Irna said the US built Chinook helicopter came down near the ruined village of Kelishom.

Army helicopter pilots have been flying as many missions on earthquake relief as they did during the fiercest battles of the 1980-88 Gulf war, Irna said.

More than 200 people injured in Iran's killer earthquake died in hospitals today. Relief officials appealed for more international aid, but not foreign personnel, to help treat and shelter survivors.

Bad weather and aftershocks, meanwhile, hampered relief operations in the devastated northern province and left casualties among volunteers.

Officials at the Red Crescent, said they have counted 40,000 dead and more than 60,000 injured in Thursday's tremor which registered between 7.3 and 7.7 on the open-ended Richter scale.

Government officials earlier said 50,000 people died, 200,000 were injured and 500,000 were made homeless.

The Islamic Republic News Agency reported that a 19-year-old volunteer died today in Rudbar.

A wall collapsed on Irfa Amjadi, a student at the police academy, when a mild tremor shook the city as he and other volunteers were trying to dig bodies from under the debris of a collapsed building.

Egypt counsels peace as Israel teaches war

Meguid urges PLO talks; Arens deploys troops

WASHINGTON, June 27, (Agencies): Egypt sent its foreign minister to the White House with a "message of peace" and this advice: talk to the PLO again.

The US reply, through spokesman Martin Fitzwater, was that talks with Yasser Arafat's group had only been suspended — not cut off forever more.

To get the 18-month dialogue resumed, all Arafat has to do is punish the perpetrators of the attempted May 30 assault on Tel Aviv and denounce it as well, US officials said.

As for the message carried by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid yesterday, the Egyptian emissary declined to provide any details and Fitzwater and other US officials were not filling in the information blanks.

But Abdel-Meguid provided a couple of clues after he saw Secretary of State James Baker at the State Department.

He said it was up to Israel to get the stalled process going, and that Egypt was willing to resume its role of conduit to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.



Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Abdel Meguid hands US President Bush a letter from Egyptian President Mubarak at the start of their meeting in the Oval Office at the White House. (Reuters wirephoto)

"If this can help, if the parties are ready," the foreign minister told reporters.

"I think the Palestinians are certainly part of the peace process and this has been known since the peace process started," Abdel-Meguid said.

At the same time, he suggested it was Israel's turn. There are no negotiations in the Middle East, he said, until Israel responds to the peace process now," the foreign minister said.

Israel today rejected as "unbalanced" European Economic Community leaders' criticism of its treatment of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The statement issued by the Foreign Ministry also accused the Palestinians of "brutal violence" in their 30-month uprising against Israeli occupation and said that Israel was trying to restore order.

The statement was issued a day after the 12-nation community concluded its summit in Dublin, Ireland, with a communiqué that accused Israel of violating the human rights of Palestinians.

The communiqué also called for an end to Jewish settlements in the territories, saying they were undermining peace prospects based on territorial compromise.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army began today to deploy more troops among major roads in the occupied lands to try to reduce Palestinian stoning attacks on military patrols and on the cars of Jewish settlers.

The redeployment had been requested by Defence Minister Moshe Arens after visits two weeks ago to the West Bank settlements of Ariel and Maale Adjudim, where residents complained bitterly of stoning attacks.

Israel Radio said that no additional troops were being assigned.

(Continued on Page 9)



England's Paul Gascoigne eats some of the chocolate cake thrown in his face by his teammates at the team's hotel in Bologna. Gascoigne set up England's winning extra time goal against Belgium in their World Cup match June 26. (Reuters wirephoto)

Childhood's end

India's children are old

NEW DELHI, India, June 27, (AP): Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and forced labour have robbed childhood from more than half of the children in India's capital, according to a recent United Nations report.

"Why should we call them children?" asked "The Invisible Child," a Unicef report issued yesterday. "These children are grown up. These children are old."

"The very notion of childhood is eroded by a hostile environment of poverty," the report said. It called on the Indian government to recognise the rights to literacy, health care, play and vocational training of New Delhi's children.

Citing statistics on child labour, health care, infant mortality and education, the report paints an ugly picture of the life of a child in Delhi's slums. It also highlights the plight of India's urban poor, often forgotten in this largely agricultural nation of 880 million people.

More than half of New Delhi's 8 million people inhabit the shanty towns, squatters huts and slums of this sprawling metropolis. While the average per capita income in the city is about Rs7,000 (\$411), in the slums the people make one-tenth that amount, the report said.

According to the report, more than 500,000 children, 80 per cent of them illiterate and many underfed, are forced to work in New Delhi.

About 40,000 work as labourers, 20,000 in car repair shops, 30,000 in restaurants and 30,000 as shop assistants, the report said. Tens of thousands more work in one-room factories where labour safety regulations are not enforced. Others scratch by as rag pickers, shoeshine boys, newspaper sellers and porters.

Child labour is only outlawed in India for certain hazardous jobs. Many of the children are bonded labour — latter day slaves, the report said.

"The children have to put up with long working hours, eight to 12 hours a day," the report said. "They face verbal, physical and sexual abuse from most people who deal with them."

The necessity of work makes going to school impossible. The report said that a survey of parents in the slums indicated that less than 5 per cent wanted their children to stop working. They just wanted labour conditions to improve.

Girls usually face the worst treatment, the study said, citing long-standing beliefs that girls are less valuable and provide less income to the family than boys.

A survey of eight Delhi slums showed that girls had an infant mortality rate 2.4 times that of boys, 73 per 1,000 compared to 30 per 1,000. Girls are yanked from school faster than boys, fed less and married early, the report said.

Families are twice as apt to take their boys to the hospital than girls, the report said.

"Girls find themselves fighting for survival in a world that denies them equal access to food, health care, education, employment and simple human dignity," the report said.

"I work like a machine," says Parvati, a 13-year-old girl interviewed by Unicef. Her parents leave her at home every day to look after her three siblings — an 11-year-old brother and two sisters, 8 and 3.

The family, economic refugees from Bihar, India's poorest state, lives in a hut near a construction site where their father was recently employed.

Parvati prepares food, cares for her siblings when they get sick and helps her mother as a maid. At dinner time, Parvati is allowed to eat only half the food of her brother.

"The only thing that makes me sad is when someone beats me," she says.

The environment surrounding New Delhi's slums is also miserable.

In many such areas, there is only one toilet for every 150 people and just one householder in every 156 has access to potable water, the report said. As little as 9 per cent of the children in one slum were immunised.

Families live in wooden shacks, with plastic roofs. About 35 per cent of slum dwellers defecate in the open and 72 per cent dump their garbage on the street, the report said.

Those seeking health care are often forced to pay even though it is supposed to be free in India. But poor families can't afford bribes demanded by state doctors.

For playing spaces, the children have lots next to septic tanks, dangerous railway tracks and Delhi's Yamuna River.

An estimated 340,000 litres (104,400 gallons) of sewage, most untreated, pours into the river every day.

Dollar/Gold

LONDON, June 27, (AP): The US dollar fell against all currencies except the Swiss franc in European trading today.

Gold prices were mixed.

In London, one British pound cost \$1.7430 late today, more expensive for buyers than Tuesday's late 1.7360.

Other late dollar rates compared with late Tuesday:

- 1.6635 West German marks, down from 1.6690.
- 1.4075 Swiss francs, up from 2.4025.
- 5.5885 French francs, down from 5.6035.
- 1.8701 Dutch guilders, down from 1.8790.
- 1.2130 Italian lire, down from 1,222.25.
- 1.1705 Canadian dollar, down from 1.1730.

Gold closed in London at \$350.05 a troy ounce, up from \$349.50 and in Zurich at \$349.90 bid, down from \$350.00.

Silver bullion closed in London at a bid \$4.84 a troy ounce, up from 4.79.

2,500 Tiger rebels trapped in jungle

Tamils detained

COLOMBO, June 27, (Agencies): Government security forces detained hundreds of Tamil youth today in sweeps for guerrillas who reportedly have infiltrated the capital.

Military officials also called on 2,500 Tamil Tiger rebels believed trapped in an eastern jungle to surrender or risk an intensive air attack.

On Monday and Tuesday, government air force planes firebombed and strafed rebel positions around a strategic 200-year-old fort in the northern city of Jaffna, the rebel stronghold. A rebel statement claimed hundreds of buildings had been set on fire and that civilians were killed in the raids.

Military officials said today that leaflets had been dropped on civilian areas around the fort warning residents to withdraw to safer ground. The leaflets said authorities intended to use "all the resources at their command" to relieve the fort.

Fighting between government forces and Liberation Tigers began June 12 when the rebels staged simultaneous attacks on four military camps in eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 66 soldiers.

Military officials said Sri Lanka will shortly receive six more Italian-made ground attack aircraft to bolster the air force's ability to bomb and strafe rebel

Expats help India to cut trade deficit

NEW DELHI, June 27, (Reuters): India has been able to reduce its massive trade deficit by almost half utilising the remittances sent by Indians working in the Gulf nations.

India has been able to finance 40 per cent of its balance of trade deficit through such inward remittance during the first half of 1990.

The figure comes to staggering \$7.5 billion. The cumulative trade deficit that afflicted India from 1980-81 to 1986-87 comes to \$324,630 million of which 40 per cent forms \$129,850 million that was off set through inward remittance.

Pakistan's gain through inward remittance in 1982-83 alone amounted to \$2.5 billion, while South Korea gained 1.9 billion dollars.

Over one million Indians are engaged in various developmental projects in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf nations. However, in the recent years there has not been any increase in number of Indians going to the Gulf.

Most of the Indians now are working as technicians, engineers, medical and other technical fields.

Demo in Srinagar as policeman kills butcher, customer

SRINAGAR, June 27, (Agencies): A paramilitary policeman shot and killed a butcher and his customer today, sparking off a demonstration against Indian security forces who are fighting Muslim separatists in Kashmir, witnesses and police said.

A second customer was seriously injured in the shooting.

Bashir Ahmed, a hyslander, said he saw the two men of the Central Reserve Police Force enter the meat shop, apparently to buy meat.

"But they must have got into an argument because the next thing I saw was one of the CRPF men firing indiscriminately," said Ahmed, standing near the butcher shop in the Khanyar locality.

The bodies of the shopkeeper, 35-year-old Ghulam Rasool Ganai, and his customer Jan Mohammad Guru, 24, were taken to their homes. Merchants in the area closed their stores. The wooden walls and the floor of the meat shop were covered with blood.

Soon after the shooting, about 1,000 residents marched to a paramilitary bunker near the meat store and squatted around it, shouting, "bring out the killers."

About 25 policemen stood inside the bunker with the guns pointing at the residents.

Four major towns of the valley — Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara and Anantnag — are to be declared disturbed areas following intensification.

(Continued on Page 2)

Guilt of Love

Former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos walks to US district court in New York yesterday as her federal trial on fraud and racketeering draws to close. The jury in the case is expected to begin deliberations today. (Reuters wirephoto)

(Details on Page 6)

INTERNATIONAL

Court moves to protect minors

WASHINGTON, June 27, (AP): People charged with child abuse are not always entitled to a face-to-face confrontation with their young accusers, the Supreme Court ruled today.

In a decision of enormous importance to child-abuse prosecutions across America, the court said the constitution allows for exceptions to such potentially traumatic confrontations.

The decision will let states use some techniques to protect minors — particularly those called to testify against their accused abusers — from a face-to-face courtroom confrontation.

More than half the states have enacted such measures already. By a 5-4 vote, the justices upheld the child-molesting conviction of a Maryland day-care centre owner even though four young children were allowed to testify out of her presence. The children testified over one-way, closed-circuit television.

But by a separate 5-4 vote, the court refused to reinstate an Idaho woman's child-abuse conviction thrown out by the state's highest court because the child did not testify. Rather, a pediatrician testified at the trial about his interview with the two-year-old alleged victim.

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Anti-govt rally

Members of opposition Congress (I) Party shout anti-government slogans after burning an effigy of Indian Petroleum Minister M.S. Gurudappa Swamy in New Delhi to protest against the Indian government's order to close all the gas stations on Sundays. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lanka

(Continued from Page 1)

targets. Four similar planes already are active.

Sri Lanka is currently spending about 10 per cent of its budget of 65.9 billion rupees (\$1.7 billion) on defence.

So far at least 1,626 combatants have died since the civil war recommenced on June 11. Fighting started after a Tamil man claimed he was manhandled by Sinhalese police. Tamil Tiger guerrillas responded by attacking police stations in the East.

The government announced today that 400,000 people have fled the fighting and that many were without food, water or shelter.

In Colombo today, government officials and relief workers said the largest number of refugees came from the northeastern Trincomalee district where 90,000 Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims were housed in 17 overflowing refugee centres. Another 80,000 fled eastern Batticaloa district.

More than 100,000 are believed to have fled their homes in the north and northwest. Tens of thousands more have abandoned their homes in villages and towns throughout the battle-scarred area.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is working to transport 1,300 tons of food and medical supplies that the government will distribute to refugees in the north.

Military officials said they believe Tamil Tiger guerrillas are moving into the south and planning attacks against Sinhalese civilians as retribution for rebel losses in the north and east.

On Wednesday police and troops cordoned off Kochchikade town, about a kilometre (half



A Tamil separatist rebel walks past a bombed-out shop in Jaffna. (Reuters wirephoto)

mile) north of Colombo's city centre, and went into homes, shops and businesses questioning young Tamils.

Residents contacted by telephone said security forces prevented people from leaving or entering the town for more than six hours.

A large number of young Tamils who were new to the area were taken away in police vehicles, residents said.

Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

tion of militants' activities to the past one month and reports that subversives are planning attacks on security forces in a big way.

The ordinance-government order, to this effect will be issued very shortly by state Governor Girish Saxena.

Official reports said a big batch of trained militants came from across the Pakistan border a few days back. The security forces spotted them and an encounter followed in which four militants were killed and several injured. The forces also seized huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

Two civilians were killed and Indian security forces set 25 shops ablaze in a Kashmir valley town to clashes with separatist militants, local police sources said today.

Militants opened fire on the Indian forces from shops in Sopore, 60 km (40 miles) west of Srinagar, while the paramilitary troops were making house-to-house searches yesterday, the sources said.

Two civilians were shot dead and one injured in the ensuing gunbattle and paramilitary troops set the shops on fire to try to flush out the militants, the sources in the state police force said.

The shops burned for two hours

before security forces allowed the fire brigade to move in, they said. By then the buildings were gutted. A curfew was imposed on Sopore.

Meanwhile, Muslim rebels waging an independence struggle in the valley killed at least ten people yesterday, including a retired army serviceman and his wife who were hanged to death from a tree in their village, police said.

Brij Nath Kaul, 45, and his wife were hanged to death early Tuesday on the outskirts of Harmain village, 25 miles (40 km) south of Srinagar. Frightened residents left the bodies hanging on the tree for five hours until police removed them, witnesses said.

Kaul, a Hindu who was retired from the military, and his wife apparently were killed because they were suspected of being police informants, police sources said.

Militants in Anantnag, 30 miles (50 km) south of Srinagar, hurled a grenade at a military vehicle, killing two Indian security personnel and wounding two others, a government spokesman said.

At least six other people, four of them Hindus, were slain during the day, including Satish Kumar, who was found hanged to death in Gandelbal village 12 miles (20 km) north of Srinagar, police sources said.

Kashmiri doctors and medical workers have accused Indian security forces of shooting to kill in their crackdown on a militant separatist revolt.

India tests missile

Plan to develop guided system

NEW DELHI, June 27, (Reuters): India, pressing on with an ambitious guided-missile programme amid tensions with Pakistan, has successfully tested an anti-tank weapon, defence experts said yesterday.

But they said the Nag missile was unlikely to be ready before 1993 and could not immediately enhance India's military strength in a crucial area of warfare.

The tests, part of a plan to indigenously develop a guided-missile system by the mid-1990s, were announced at a time of strained relations between India and Pakistan over a separatist revolt in Kashmir.

The neighbouring states went to war over Kashmir in 1947 and 1965. In 1971 a third war led to the creation of Bangladesh.

An Indian Defence Ministry spokesman told Reuters the Nag anti-tank missile underwent tests over a period of several months, and its propulsion and guiding systems were operating successfully.

"Its induction (into the armed forces) is very much on schedule, but it requires more tests," the spokesman added. He did not give the range of the Nag or the date of the tests.

A.M. Vohra, a retired lieutenant-general, estimated Nag's range at 3,000 yards and said it would replace imported versions now in use by the Indian Army, which ranks behind only China, the Soviet Union and the United States in size.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates that Pakistan's tank force is outnumbered by 1,813 to 3,250.

Pakistan has been making serious efforts to bridge the gap by improving the quality of its defence weapons, acquiring anti-tank and anti-aircraft systems from the West.

These weapons could play a crucial role in armoured warfare, which provided most of the decisive battles in 1965 and 1971 and gave the edge to India with its overwhelming superiority in tanks and aircraft, Western diplomats said.

They said if there were a fourth war between Indian and Pakis-

tan it would probably be mainly fought in the plains of Sind and Rajasthan, and take place only when the weather cools around September and October from the current summer desert heat.

Indian defence sources said Nag would join the intermediate-range Agni; the short-range, surface-to-air Trishul; and medium-range, surface-to-air Akash, and the surface-to-surface Prithvi in a formidable missile system that would cut down India's military dependence on other countries.

They are part of the \$265 million integrated guided missile development programme.

The Indian government said last year the Trishul and Prithvi were ready for induction, while the Akash and Nag would be produced from 1993.

But a Defence Ministry official said the induction of the Agni, the successful testing of

which in May 1989, put India in an exclusive club of countries with intermediate-range missile capability, would be taken only on the basis of a political decision.

The Agni has a 2,400 km (1,500 mile) range and significantly alters the balance of strategic power in Asia, where several countries have expressed concern over India's willingness in the past three years to deploy its military in regional conflicts.

In 1987 it sent 55,000 troops, backed by artillery and tanks, to fight Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka. In 1988 it sent a Rapid Deployment Force to crush a coup in the Maldives.

Bharat Wariawalla of Delhi's government-funded Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis said a dangerous war hysteria was being generated over Kashmir in India and Pakistan.

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OLYMPIC AIRWAYS

US young men likelier homicide victims than other nationalities

CHICAGO, Illinois, June 27. (AP) Young men in the United States are more than four times as likely to be murdered than those in 20 other industrialised countries, according to a study released yesterday.

And homicide is the leading cause of death among the nation's young black males, the report said.

In 1987, 4,223 men aged 15 to 24 were slain in the United States, or 21.9 per 100,000, researchers said in an article in this week's *Journal of American Medical Association*.

Scotland, a part of the United Kingdom, had the second highest rate, with 22 male homicide victims in that age range, or 5 per 100,000, the article said. The rate for

England and Wales was 1.2 per 100,000; no figures were given for Northern Ireland, also a part of the UK.

Austria's 0.3 homicides per 100,000 young men was the lowest in the study.

The study did not say how these high and low rates compared with countries outside the study.

"If the US homicide rate could be reduced to the next highest rate, more than 3,000 lives would be saved" each year, wrote Los Angeles Fingerhut and Joel Kleinman of the National Centre for Health Statistics in the article.

Fingerhut pointed to the availability of guns as one possible cause of the high US

homicide rate. The researchers found that 75 per cent of the US deaths were caused by guns. France was second with 54 per cent.

Tom Wylk, a spokesman for the National Rifle Association, said the organisation wouldn't comment without studying the article.

But James Wright, a sociologist who specialises in criminology, noted that the Swiss own guns and have almost no history of violence. "But they do emphasise responsible firearm ownership much more than we do," he said.

Only one in 14 homicides in Switzerland was by firearm, according to the study.

"And, if you subtract all the firearm

homicides, we're still killing loads more people than any other country," Wright said.

The number of homicides in the United States in 1987 that didn't involve firearms was still more than triple the murder totals in all the other countries combined, according to the study.

Fingerhut said the research focused on men aged 15 to 24 because 20 per cent of all US homicides occurred in this age group.

Among young black males, the homicide rate was 85.6 per 100,000, more than seven times the rate for young white males of 11.2 per 100,000.

"In the United States, homicide is the leading cause of death among black males

aged 15 to 24 years and the third leading cause (after motor vehicle injuries and suicide) among white males 15 through 24 years of age," the researchers wrote.

Figures for the United States in the article were compiled from 1987 statistics. The figures for the other countries were from the years 1987, 1986 or 1985.

The countries in the study, and their homicide per 100,000 of males aged 15-24:

United States	21.9
Scotland	5.0
New Zealand	4.4
Israel	3.7
Norway	3.3
Finland	3.0
Canada	2.2
Australia	2.2
Sweden	2.2
Belgium	1.7
Netherlands	1.7
Switzerland	1.4
France	1.4
Greece	1.4
Ireland	1.4
Poland	1.2
England and Wales	1.2
Portugal	1.0
Denmark	1.0
West Germany	0.7
Japan	0.5
Austria	0.3

PEOPLE AND PLACES

TORONTO: Ashrita Furman climbed the world's longest staircase on a pogo stick on Tuesday.

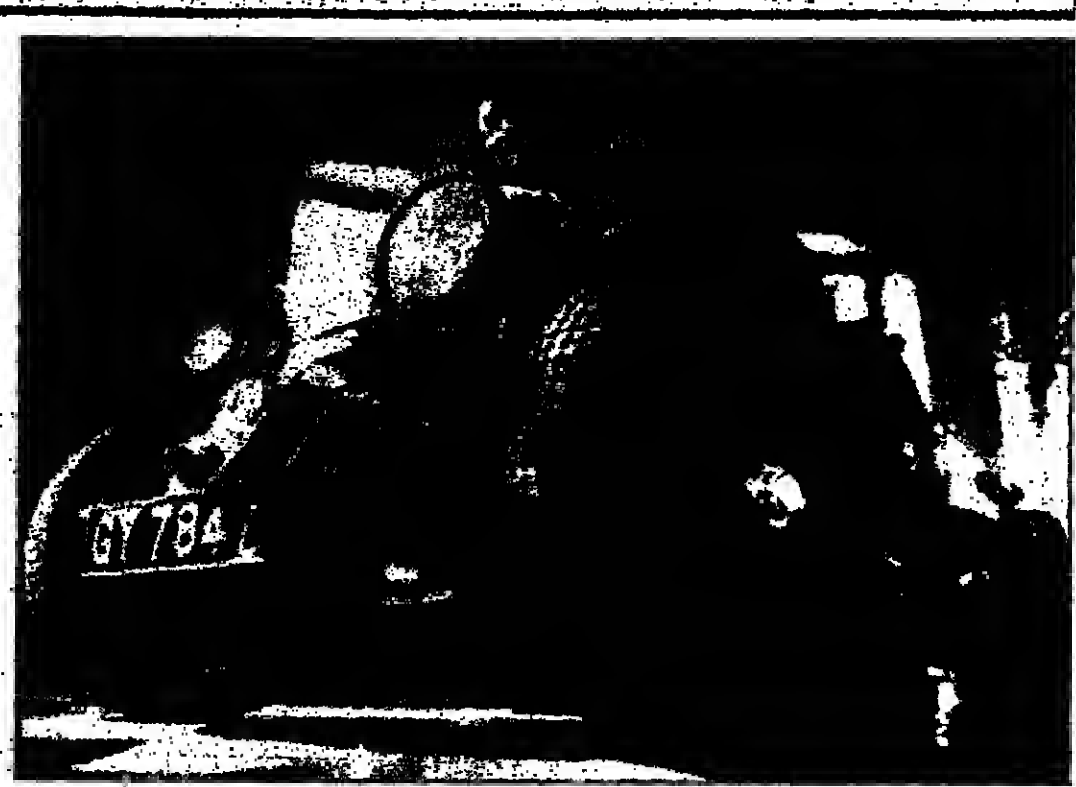
The health food store manager hopped up 1,760 stairs of the world's tallest free-standing structure, Toronto's CN tower, in less than an hour.

Furman, 35, wants an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records as the man with the most world records.

He has walked over 30 miles (48 km) with a full bottle of milk on his head, climbed a third of Japan's Mount Fuji with a pogo stick and pogo-sticked under water in Brazil's Amazon River.

"I want to be the first to pogo stick on the moon," he said.

Furman now plans to regain his 1987 modelling record by modelling for 36 hours in a hot air balloon over Ottawa, (Reuters).



1931 Bentley to be auctioned
Diana Barnato-Walker daughter of former Bentley Motors chairman W. G. Barnato inspects a rare 1931 Bentley four-door sedan at a Sotheby's auction in London. The car is expected to fetch up to £1 million (\$1.73m) at a Sotheby's auction July 2. (Reuters wirephoto)

OSLO, Norway: A valuable lithograph by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch that was stolen from an Oslo art gallery in mid-April has been recovered by police, reports said Tuesday.

The painting, *Madonna*, worth about 1.5 million kroner (\$231,000) was among four stolen works by Norwegian artists recovered at a house in Drammen, near Oslo, newspapers reported.

Two Norwegian men were held on charges of receiving stolen property, but were not suspected of stealing the artworks, reported the Norwegian news agency NTB.

The *Madonna* and 1.7 million kroner (\$261,000) worth of other artworks were stolen from the Kunsthuset gallery just before Easter. Thieves broke down the door with a trolley track rail. (AP)

NEW YORK: Judges for the third New York International Ballet Competition awarded no gold medals.

It is the third time the competition has failed to produce superior winners. No gold was awarded for men in 1984, and none for women in 1987.

"The basic principle of the competition is that the candidate for the gold should exhibit a very well-rounded dance education," said Igor Youskevitch, artistic director of the competition.

"When such a candidate stands out, there are no doubts on the part of the panel. If there is no such clear cut candidate, then they can elect not to award the gold."

There were, however, excellent demonstrations by dancers during the five-day event, which ended Monday night. (AP)

TOPEKA, Kansas: Dr Karl A. Menninger, one of the founders of modern psychiatry is being treated for abdominal cancer.

Menninger, whose 97th birthday is July 22, was in fair condition Tuesday at a hospital in Topeka.

A statement issued Monday by the Menninger Psychiatric Centre, which he co-founded with his father and brother in 1925, said the cancer diagnosis was made last weekend. A course of treatment has not yet been determined, the statement added.

Menninger was hospitalized June 17 after complaining of abdominal pain and loss of appetite. He had been going to his office on the Menninger campus almost daily until then.

Menninger, who is chairman of the board of trustees of the Menninger Foundation, often has been called the Father of American Psychiatry. (AP)

SAPPORO, Japan: A fanfare by British brass and the crash of Korean cymbals opened the Pacific Music Festival Tuesday.

Symbolising sponsors' hopes of creating an annual bridge between Eastern and Western musical traditions.

Nearly 700 musicians from 23 countries, including conductors Leonard Bernstein and Michael Tilson Thomas, will rehearse and study together in Sapporo and perform about 50 concerts in Sapporo, Tokyo and Yokohama during the three-week festival, ending July 14.

It is the first international music instruction and performance festival ever held in Japan, organisers said.

Many concerts will feature the London Symphony Orchestra, where Bernstein serves as president and Thomas as principal conductor. The London Symphony also will play a series of 10 concerts in Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka July 10-22. (AP)

Cancer-electricity link under study

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, June 27. (Reuters) Canadian researchers said yesterday they will recruit 800 children to study a possible link between cancer and electricity.

The cancer control agency of British Columbia said the children, half of whom are suffering from leukaemia or other blood cancer, will be asked to wear a device called a Dosimeter to measure the electromagnetic fields in which they move.

Smoke kills non-smokers 3,800 cancer deaths

WASHINGTON, June 27. (AP): A study by the US Environmental Agency says, second-hand tobacco smoke is a human carcinogen, causing about 3,800 lung cancer deaths annually among the nation's non-smokers.

The Environmental Protection Agency study, which is in draft form and has not been evaluated by the agency's independent science advisers, was quickly criticised by a Tobacco Industry Trade Association.

A statement from the tobacco institute said in analysis by the agency's science advisory board "is likely to significantly undermine the very basis of this draft."

The study, prepared by the agency's office of research and development, said an evaluation of studies about environmental tobacco smoke, which originates from burning cigarettes, shows that it causes cancer among non-smokers.

This conclusion, the study said, "is based on a total weight of evidence."

The evidence includes what the report calls "detectable association at environmental exposure levels" between cancer and non-smoking family members who live with a smoker.

"With the population of women who are lifelong non-smokers," the study said, "the excess lung cancer risk of those married to a smoker is largely enough to be observed."

Twenty-four studies from eight countries provide no other broadly applicable explanation

Deadly rise in tobacco use: study

CHICAGO, June 27. (Reuters): Tobacco use has jumped by about 75 per cent world-wide in the past 20 years, creating a medical time bomb that will eventually kill 200 million people now under the age of 20, experts said yesterday.

At a time when cigarette smoking is falling off in more developed nations, it is increasing in Africa, Latin America and Asia as tobacco companies seek new markets, the Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Medical Association said.

"Globally, increasing tobacco use is responsible for almost 2.5 million excessive or premature deaths per year — almost five per cent of all deaths," the council said.

"With regard to tobacco use in children, it has been estimated that world-wide as many as 200 million children currently younger than 20 years will subsequently die from tobacco use," it added.

The council's report was published in this week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The United States leads the world in tobacco exports, followed by Brazil, Greece, Italy and Zimbabwe, the report said. In 1987 the United States manufactured 689 billion cigarettes, second only to China's 1.4 trillion, and US exports to Asia increased by 75 per cent in 1988 alone.

During the past two decades, the report said, use of tobacco increased by about 75 per cent globally, so that by 1986 an estimated one billion people smoked five trillion cigarettes.

A dramatic increase in smoking world-wide has been fostered by US trade policies that ignore the health problems associated with tobacco, according to a report.

US trade policy is perpetuating the problem by trying to develop overseas — especially in Asia — a market that is drying up at home, said the report by the medical association's council on scientific affairs.

LONDON: The former chief designer of French fashion house Christian Dior has moved to Hartnell's, London's couturier to Queen Elizabeth, the British firm said on Tuesday.

Maer Bolan, 63, said he looked forward to future royal patronage as Hartnell's artistic and design director.

To have the unique opportunity of playing a key role in the revitalisation of a fashion house with such a splendid history is an inspiring challenge which I am looking forward to with excitement," he told reporters.

TOKYO: Japanese stuntman Yoshiyuki Wada plans to ski down three equatorial peaks on three continents to highlight the need for worldwide environmental protection, the Kyodo news service said on Wednesday.

It said the "Kamikaze Skier" had his sights on Indonesia's Mount Jaya (15,030 metres, 16,502 feet), Kenya's Mount Kilimanjaro (5,200 metres, 17,058 feet) and Ecuador's Mount Chimborazo (6,310 metres, 20,702 feet).

Wada, 36, from Sapporo in northern Japan, said he would make the attempts between August this year and July, 1991, Kyodo added.

Kennedy killer Sirhan Sirhan denied parole

SOLEDAD, California, June 27. (AP): Sirhan B. Sirhan, who shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to death 22 years ago, was denied parole for the 13th time.

After a hearing of more than five hours yesterday in Soledad prison, Sirhan was told his next parole hearing would be in 1992.

Commissioner David Brown, one of the three Board of Prison Terms members, said parole was denied "because the prisoner committed a political assassination, which is unique in American history."

Brown said another reason for the denial was that the "underlying cause of the offence and the prisoner's role in the offence remain unresolved and a longer period of time is needed to resolve this issue."

Brown did not elaborate on that comment and was not available for questions after the hearing.

Sirhan, now 46, was convicted of gunning down Kennedy on June 5, 1968, in the pantry of Los Angeles Ambassador hotel. Kennedy, who had just won California's Democratic

Reports rejected

\$10,000 reward for Zodiac's arrest

NEW YORK, June 27. (AP): The judge in the Central Park jogger case has barred defence lawyers from introducing psychological reports on how unintelligent and suggestible their teen-age clients are.

Three youths are charged with the rape and attempted murder of a female runner on April 19, 1989. The charges are based in part on admissions they made to police after their arrest.

Two of the youths' lawyers yesterday said the reports, prepared by psychologists hired by the defence, show the teen-agers have intellects and personalities that would allow them to confess to crimes they did not commit.

During jury selection, each lawyer suggested that his client succumbed to lies, trickery and intimidation, and one alluded to Prisoners of War confessions to things they are not guilty of.

"Some people have a tendency to act under pressure," said Michael Joseph, lawyer for defendant Antron McCray, 15. He said the psychological examinations of the defendants took place within the month.

"I felt it was important for the jury to know how my client scored on his intelligence tests, his IQ," Joseph said.

Judge Thomas Galligan denied the applications made yesterday on behalf of defendants McCray, Raymond Santana, 16, and Yusuf Salaam, 16. He allowed the statements the youths gave to police to be used as evidence.

The teen-agers allegedly were part of a larger gang of youths who rampaged through Central Park the night of April 19 last year, randomly assaulting or trying to assault at least eight people they encountered.

Deliberations begin in NY racial slaying

NEW YORK, June 27. (AP): Jurors deciding the fate of the third defendant in the racial slaying of a black teen-ager asked the judge how suspect John Vento would be guilty of murder if he didn't shoot the victim.

Justice Thaddeus Owens of the New York State Supreme Court told the panel Monday that to find Vento guilty of murder they had to determine he was "acting in concert" with the person who shot Yusuf Hawkins and shared the gunman's "mental culpability or blamability."

The 12-member panel deliberated about five one-half hours before recessing at 2:00 GMT Monday, and resumed its work yesterday morning.

Prosecutors call Vento a prime organiser of a white mob that attacked Hawkins, 16.

By continuing to participate in the attack, after hearing Joseph Fama say he wanted to shoot one of the victims, Vento is as guilty of murder as triggerman, they maintain.

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INTERNATIONAL

Medellin cartel blamed for massacre

BOGOTA, June 27, (Agencies): A top army general has blamed the Medellin cartel of cocaine traffickers for the execution-style murders of 19 people in a Medellin tavern.

General Harold Bedoya, military commander in the Medellin area, said the Saturday night massacre in the tavern "Oporto" was the work of cocaine-paid hitmen.

"The only certain thing is that narcotics traffickers are behind all of this," Bedoya said in remarks published yesterday in the Medellin newspaper El Mundo.

National police have also been implicated in mass killings, but the targets in their underground war are cocaine hitmen, two Colombian publications also said.

In the attack Saturday on the Oporto rock-and-roll bar, some 15 gunmen entered the club and killed 19 people, including students, waiters and sons of prominent businessmen inside.

Authorities said yesterday no arrests had been made in the case. Medellin, 160 miles (260 km) northwest of Bogota, is the headquarters for the Medellin cartel, the most powerful and rich of the Colombian cocaine organisations. Since April, the city has been the scene of numerous mass murders and the almost daily shooings of policemen.

Medellin cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar has offered a reward of about \$4,000 to hitmen who kill policemen. More than 150 policemen have been killed in Medellin or nearby towns in the state of Antioquia this year.

In all, 2,784 people were slain in the first 175 days of this year in Medellin, an average of about 16 per day, according to the Bogota newspaper El Tiempo.

The newspaper also said yesterday that members of the national police were behind a series of murders in poor sections of Medellin that are the breeding grounds of hundreds of hitmen who serve the Medellin cartel.

"In some of the latest collective massacres in the capital of Antioquia, the assassins used procedures similar to those used by the authorities," the newspaper said.

It said that a complete shakeup of the tap command should be carried out, even though direct participation of the police in some of the murders had not been established.

The magazine Semana made a similar accusation against police in a recent issue.

It said gunmen were stepping out of cars in poor northeast Medellin neighbourhoods and opening fire on young men between 16 and 30 years old, the prime age for cocaine hitmen.

"It was the retaliation of an eye for an eye, with no importance given to whose eye it was," said the magazine. "Every time that a policeman is killed in the capital (Medellin), in the northeast neighbourhoods the 'cleanup' commandos arrive to collect the bill in deaths."

■ Cuba's communist government proposes in tougher penalties against drug-traffickers by recommending longer prison sentences and in some cases the death penalty, the head of the national assembly said yesterday.

Juan Escalona told reporters that a bill to amend the existing penal code would be considered later this year.

It would propose tougher penalties, in some cases the death sentence, against traffickers who used Cuban territory or waters to transport large quantities of narcotics.

■ Venezuelan police have broken up a cocaine trafficking ring that smuggled the drugs in their shorts, deputy police chief Orlando Jordan Petit announced yesterday.

South Africa hails EEC's softened stance on sanctions

Community welcomes De Klerk's 'foresight and courage' in releasing Mandela, introducing major reforms

JOHANNESBURG, June 27, (Agencies): South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said yesterday the European Economic Community had restored its country to international respectability by recognising President F. W. de Klerk's political reforms.

The 12 EEC leaders, in a summit statement issued in Dublin, welcomed the release of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela in February and De Klerk's 'foresight and courage' in introducing major reforms to the apartheid system

of racial segregation.

They acknowledged that De Klerk had brought about substantial reform and promised to ease EEC sanctions on South Africa if more progress was made.

"What the declaration says, albeit in not so many words, is that South Africa has regained international respectability. One man has done that: F. W. de Klerk," Botha said.

He told the South African Press Association: "On the basis of informa-

tion available to me there was, with few exceptions, a consensus that President de Klerk had already crossed the threshold."

The EEC declaration acknowledged that South Africa was committed to creating a democratic and non-racial system, said Botha, who toured Europe with De Klerk earlier this year explaining their policies.

Initial reaction from South African private sector business was positive.

"It looks like more of a carrot than

just the stick," said chief economist David Mohr of Old Mutual, a top financial institution. "In the past it's been mainly just the big stick."

In a further indication of a thaw in European attitudes, West Germany's Economic Co-operation and Development Minister, Jeurgens Warnke, arrived yesterday for the first official visit by a Bonn minister in 12 years.

Warnke held talks with Botha and Finance Minister Barend Du Plessis and said his visit showed South Africa

was gradually re-entering the world community.

The new secretary-general of the Commonwealth takes over on Sunday hoping to see the end of apartheid during his five-year term in office.

Nigerian chief Emeke Anyaoku, appointed after an unprecedented ballot for the post last October, said that reforms in South Africa were promising but international pressure must be maintained until change was irreversible.

In Pretoria, leaders of five extreme right-wing South African groups met De Klerk yesterday and demanded he call an early general election to test white support for his apartheid reform programme.

Eight blacks, including a policeman, were killed in a series of attacks around the country, police said yesterday. Japan and South Africa today decided to expand their diplomatic contacts, the two countries have no high level diplomatic ties.



Zambia riots

A Zambian army private stands guard over the Landrover used by President Kenneth Kaunda during the independence struggle which was destroyed by rioters on Tuesday after the food price increase. Lusaka is under a 36-hour curfew with army and police patrolling. (Reuter wirephoto) (See Page 6)

UK pledge to protect ozone

Global fund likely

LONDON, June 27, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today pledged \$9 million to the world's first global environmental fund.

"We need to speed up action and set ourselves higher targets and shorter deadlines for reducing and eventually eliminating CFCs and halons," Mrs Thatcher said during a speech before an environmental conference that brought together government ministers and officials from nearly 100 countries.

"Even if all the chemicals which damage the ozone layer were banned tomorrow, ozone depletion would continue to get worse for more than a decade. It would still take our planet well beyond the lifetime of all of us here to replenish the ozone already lost. That is the extent of the damage we have already done," she said.

Dr Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the UN Environment Programme, said the London meeting was "establishing a new political movement to deal with the environmental crisis... a movement rooted in respect for the value of human life, the value of nature. We are not just writing a new treaty; we are writing a new chapter in international relations."

During the three-day meeting, the officials will study proposals calling for a complete worldwide ban on a group of chemicals that threaten the planet's ozone shield.

The conference also will discuss a proposal to create an international fund to help poor countries pay the high price for ozone-friendly technology.

Conference sources said diplomats were close to

agreement on such a fund, which the United States opposed until two weeks ago.

In a week of working sessions before the meeting moved to ministerial level, delegates tried to hammer out details for the fund proposal. But a number of tricky issues remain to be resolved by the ministers, including finding a source for the funds.

Many developing countries insist that the richer industrialised nations help the Third World pay the bill, estimated at \$2 billion to 7 billion in the coming years, for converting to chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs.

Developed nations, led by the United States, want to shift their contributions from aid funds already allocated.

The ministers appear likely to agree on a three-year down payment of \$160 million, as suggested by Tolba. Another \$80 million would be promised to China and India, to coax them into signing the 1987 Montreal Protocol on protecting the ozone layer.

Indian delegates say converting their industry to CFC substitutes in the next decade may cost as much as \$500 million, an amount India says it cannot afford. China estimates a conversion cost of \$42 million.

The fund would be a milestone in "green diplomacy" and could serve as a model for the deals that will be needed to solve other environmental problems.

The ministers' work, if successful, will extend and strengthen the Montreal Protocol, already considered an environmental watershed.

In September 1987, 56 nations agreed to halve CFC by 1996.

Hottest day on record in Phoenix

PHOENIX, June 27, (AP): Air-conditioners whined. Swimming pools beckoned. But there was no getting around it—it was hot in Arizona, as well as the rest of the southwestern United States.

In Phoenix, the temperature hit 122 degrees Fahrenheit (50 degrees Celsius) yesterday, hot enough to ground airplanes. It was the hottest day on record in the hottest big city in the United States.

A heat wave that stretched from the southern California coast to the heart of Texas reached its sweltering peak in Phoenix, which set a record of 120 degrees (48.9 Celsius) on Monday and promptly broke it a day later.

At 2:47 pm, it was 122, and many of the airplanes at Sky Harbour international airport began cancelling takeoffs, said airport spokesman Rick Martinez.

The heat had reduced lift to the point that planes had no margin for error trying to get airborne, Martinez said. Some landings also were rescheduled to other airports, he said, but after the temperature dropped below 120 (48.8) later in the afternoon most flights resumed.

The National Weather Service advised the Metropolitan area's 2.1 million residents to stay indoors, carry plenty of water when driving and not leave pets or children inside parked cars.

Weather service meteorologist Craig Ellis said the high temperatures were caused by a strong high-pressure area in the upper atmosphere and the sun beating almost directly down on the Earth.

He predicted the temperature would peak Tuesday or Wednesday before cooling off to around 113 degrees (45 Celsius).

Mandela calls for continued sanctions

FBI denies death threat report

WASHINGTON, June 27, (UPI): Nelson Mandela completed his official business in the capital with a plea for continued US sanctions against the South African government and headed for points south facing renewed controversy.

Mandela was to leave Washington early today for Atlanta and travel later in the day to Miami, where the governor and Cuban-American mayors in the area denounced him for his support of Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Jewish groups in Florida have objected to Mandela's praise for Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, and black leaders have reacted with outrage to the criticism of the African National Congress leader.

In Atlanta, Mandela was to lay a wreath at the grave of Martin Luther King Jr., which has prompted Hosea Williams, a former associate of the slain civil rights leader, to argue that Mandela should embrace non-violence as King did.

Pointing to US history to defend the use of violence in South Africa, Mandela told a joint meeting of Congress yesterday that the "weapons of war" are necessary to secure the inalienable rights of blacks in his country.

Mandela, released Feb 11 after 27 years in prison, government, was only the third private citizen from another country ever to address such a session and received a hero's welcome from all but a handful of members.

In a 35-minute speech interrupted several times by applause, Mandela pledged that South Africa would become a multi-racial democracy with a constitution, a bill of rights, independent courts and a multi-party system.

He said the government would intervene in the economy to correct inequalities created by apartheid, but added that the ANC "holds no ideological positions which dictate that it must adopt a policy of nationalisation" and promised to respect the rights of foreign investors.

As for the United States, the 71-year-old Mandela called on it to keep in place the economic sanctions imposed in 1986 over



Singer Bette Midler and his wife Julie (left) and the Rev. Jackson and Jackie Jackson are among the audience listening to Mandela's address to Congress June 26. (Reuter wirephoto)

president Ronald Reagan's veto until all South Africans say they can be lifted.

"We would be fools to believe that the road ahead of us is without major hurdles. Too many of our white compatriots are steeped in the ideology of racism to admit easily that change must come," Mandela said.

"South Africa is a country in the grip of the apartheid crime against humanity," he said. "We have yet to arrive at the point where we can say that South Africa is set on an irreversible course leading to its transformation into a united, democratic country."

Mandela also repeated his request for aid to the ANC, but refused to give in to President Bush's demand that it renounce violence, saying it could not do so until the violence of the white South African government also ends.

"Unhappily, our people continue to die to this day, victims of armed agents of the state who are still determined to turn their guns against the very idea of a non-racial democracy," said Man-

del. ■ A US television network said on Tuesday that a death threat has been made against Mandela during his 12-day trip to the United States, but the FBI later denied the report.

Cable News Network (CNN) said there had been intelligence reports that an assassination attempt would be made against the 71-year-old black nationalist, currently in Washington on the third day of his eight-city US tour.

But a Federal Bureau of Investigation official, who asked not to be identified, said when asked about the report, "there have been no death threats communicated against Mandela."

The FBI's section on terrorism, along with the US State Department and the US secret service, typically provide security for foreign dignitaries such as Mandela.

In Boston before arriving here, Mandela's wife, Winnie, cancelled an appearance after a bomb threat was reported. Security has been tight

throughout Mandela's visit so far, which has also included stops in New York and Boston.

There was no confirmation of the CNN report made before Mandela was to address a joint session of Congress.

Last week 11 white right-wing extremists were arrested in South Africa for allegedly plotting to kill Mandela and South African President F. W. de Klerk. They were later released.

■ Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years in jail for opposing his government, will meet this week with another famous dissident, Nathan Sharansky.

The meeting with former Soviet prisoner will take place on Friday in Los Angeles, a day before Mandela winds up his 10-day US tour. The Anti-Defamation League announced Tuesday.

Sharansky was imprisoned in Soviet jails and labour camps for more than eight years on false charges of treason, before being exchanged in a 1986 East-West prisoner swap and allowed to go to Israel.

Jan '89 grand jury testimony

Barry tapes played in court

WASHINGTON, June 27, (Reuter): Washington Mayor Marion Barry told a grand jury he never got cocaine when he met with a drug dealer at a hotel, according to a tape of the grand jury session played yesterday during his drug and perjury trial.

Barry is being tried on 14 federal charges, including three counts of felony perjury, for allegedly using cocaine and lying about it to a grand jury in January 1989.

Barry, one of the nation's leading black politicians and mayor of Washington for 12 years, listened on headphones as his federal jury heard an audiotape excerpts from his grand jury testimony.

Each perjury count carries a possible five-year prison term and \$250,000 in fines. If Barry is convicted of all charges, he faces up to \$1.85 million in fines

and 26 years in prison.

On the tape, Barry was heard denying that he received cocaine from Charles Lewis, a convicted drug dealer who has testified he smoked crack cocaine with Barry in 1986 and 1988, including once at the Ramada Inn hotel in Washington.

"Have you ever received cocaine from anyone at the Ramada?" prosecutor Judith Retchin asked him on the tape.

"No," I never had anything that made me high like I think cocaine's supposed to make you high," Barry replied.

In grand jury testimony studded with "nutt in my knowledge" and "my best recollection," Barry mentioned that Lewis talked about a "working 50" but said he did not understand the term.

Senate rejects flag protection amendment

WASHINGTON, June 27, (Reuter): The US Senate yesterday rejected a constitutional amendment to prohibit desecration of the American flag, two weeks after a supreme court decision that flag burning was a form of free speech protected by the constitution.

The 58-42 vote in favour of the amendment was seven short of the two-thirds majority needed to approve a constitutional amendment. The amendment had also fallen short in a House of Representatives vote last Thursday.

The desecration of the flag has become a major emotional issue that could play a role in tough re-election battles several Democratic senators face this year.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole urged passage of the amendment, alluding to the flag's colours when he said: "This amendment rescues the bill of rights by correcting the supreme court's red, white and blue blunder."

■ US soldier convicted of murder in Panama

FORT ORD, California, June 27, (Reuter): A 20-year-old American soldier was convicted in a court martial yesterday of murdering a Panamanian civilian while he was in Panama City in January, with US invasion forces.

Army private Mark McMonaghan of Philadelphia was convicted of murder for causing the death of Luis Diaz de Panay, 50, who was struck by bullets in her home on Jan 25.



Pressure to save Amazon

Brazil criticised for taking little concrete action

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 27, (Reuter): Brazil's government is under intense pressure to save the dwindling Amazon rain forest, but critics say that despite making several proposals it has so far taken little concrete action.

"The government has done nothing," said Antonio Carlos Oliveira, a member of the Brazilian ecology group Oikos. "Environment secretary Jose Lutzenberger travels abroad and makes speeches but does not know Brazil."

Ideas proposed include limiting development to selected zones, so-called debt-for-nature swaps, and enlisting the armed forces to fight the logging and burning that have already destroyed more than eight per cent of the jungle.

Brazil's financial crisis, politics and an enormous web of bureaucracy are slowing the implementation of these proposals.

If and when they come to fruition, these plans may not make much difference to the Amazon's fate, say critics who add that they do not go far enough in tackling the causes and would be hard to enforce.

Philip Fearnside, an ecologist at the National Institute

for Research in the Amazon says: "The government should put high taxes on land sales to discourage speculation."

Land speculators raise the forest to gain title to the property.

One concrete action taken by the government was the dynamiting of air strips used by gold prospectors in Amazonian Indian territory. But even that has met with difficulties.

Federal police say only 14 strips out of 110 have been blown up since early May because heavy rains have grounded planes.

Brazil has some 400 million hectares (one billion acres) of forest. Since the 1970s, migrants have colonised wide areas, burning the forest to clear land for farming and ranching. Mining and logging have exacerbated the destruction.

Presenting Brazil's most comprehensive survey to date of deforestation, Science and Technology Secretary Jose Goldenberg said this week that settlers laid waste to 46,000 square km (17,760 square miles)—an area bigger than Switzerland—in the 1988 construction mandates

zoning in the Amazon—the idea being to allow farming and logging in specific areas while creating ecological reserves in other parts.

Land would also be set aside for "extractive reserves," where rubber tappers and other gatherers could operate without causing harm.

"The various parts of the Amazon appear uniform but in reality the forest is a mosaic, with different areas suitable for different activities," said ecologist Orlando Valverde.

President Fernando Collor de Mello has ordered a committee to come up with a zoning plan for the Amazon within 60 days.

A sketchy form exists already in Rondonia, the most devastated of the Amazon states, but a more detailed version was rejected by the legislature last month.

State politicians, who have to answer to their rancher and logger voters, said the plan was too restrictive.

The plan's co-ordinator, Teodorico Rocha, said the general idea would be to demarcate 40 per cent of the state for farming and 30 per cent for extractive reserves. The remaining 30 per cent would be entirely preserved.

LANGOLITA

INTERNATIONAL

Fang to work for progress in China

LONDON, June 27. (AP): Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi, freed by a government apparently eager to improve ties with the West, said yesterday he will continue to work for "progress and development" in China.

Fang and his wife, Li Shuxian, arrived in Britain Monday night after the Chinese government agreed to permit them to leave their refuge in the US embassy in Beijing.

The couple had sought refuge there after the Chinese government's June 4, 1989, military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

"As citizens of China, we hope to do whatever we can in the future to help China's continuing progress and development," Fang said in a statement issued through the Royal Society in London.

The statement was issued after the society cancelled tentative plans to present Fang at a news conference.

Fang's statement said he and his wife were looking forward to a few days of quiet to "rest and recuperate, and to have some medical tests."

"The past year has been difficult for us, but we have received strong support from the international scientific community and friends everywhere," the statement said.

My wife and I would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to President (George) Bush, ambassador (James) Lilley, and the staff at the US embassy in Beijing.

The Royal Society, Britain's oldest and most prestigious scientific organisation, invited Fang, an astrophysicist, to Britain. He will be a senior visiting fellow at Cambridge University's Institute of Astronomy, the institute's director said.

Fang pioneered laser research in China and has also done research in cosmology, focusing on black holes.

"We understand that our son in China soon will be able to study abroad, and we are naturally looking forward to a family reunion," Fang said in the statement.

Fang and Li have two sons. Fang Ke is a student at Wayne State University in Detroit, and Fang Zhe is a student at Beijing University.

Fang and Li, a physicist and also a dissident, flew to Britain late Monday night aboard a US Air Force transport jet from Beijing. They landed at Upper Heyford, a US air base 60 miles (100 kms) west of London, at 11.30 pm (2230 GMT).

The official Xinhua News Agency said they were given permission to leave China for medical reasons after showing "signs of repentance." US media reports said Fang recently suffered a mild heart attack and refused to undergo treatment in a Chinese hospital.

A US diplomat was quoted by Hearst News Service as saying the heart attack was the "face saver" that permitted the Chinese government to cite "humanitarian concerns" in permitting Fang and Li to leave.

The diplomat, assistant secretary of state Richard Solomon, said both the US and Chinese governments had agreed to refrain from direct reference to the heart attack, saying only that Fang needed medical treatment.

A British foreign office spokesman said the couple had been granted standard six-month tourist visas.

A key adviser to former Chinese Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang has been released from prison after an investigation of his role in the pro-democracy movement, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Bao Tong, the former private secretary to Zhao who headed a think tank on restructuring China's political system, was released from maximum security Qincheng prison last month and is now under house arrest in Beijing, the English-language South China Morning Post reported.

The report, quoting unnamed sources in Beijing, said authorities have yet to decide what to do with Bao.

The State Department estimated there still are 1,000 to 2,000 Chinese in prison after Beijing's crackdown last year on the pro-democracy movement.



Souvenir of Tiananmen massacre

A foreign collector in Beijing holds a wristwatch June 27 issued to troops involved in the crackdown on the democracy movement last June. The watch features a helmeted soldier, the Tiananmen gate and the inscription June 4, 1989, a souvenir for quelling the counter-revolutionary turmoil. Hundreds if not thousands of civilians died when troops opened fire on protesters. (Reuters wirephoto)



Yang hospitalised

President Yang Shangkun, leader of China's army, has been hospitalised and underwent surgery for acute appendicitis, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

News of the 83-year-old leader's illness was announced by the official Xinhua news agency in a brief dispatch. The report said Yang could not attend a welcoming ceremony for a visiting dignitary because he was hospitalised Monday with "acute appendicitis." The report gave no further details.

An official spokesman from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the report and said Yang had been operated on for appendicitis. The spokesman had no further information on Yang's current condition.

Picture shows Yang Shangkun (right) talking to party chief Jiang Zemin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Taipei holds reforms meet

Constitutional crisis

TAIPEI, Taiwan, June 27. (AP): Politicians and academics meet tomorrow to try to defuse a constitutional crisis by agreeing on a more democratic system that would challenge four decades of one-party rule.

An opposition leader predicted violence could result if the national affairs conference fails to find a way to give more power to native Taiwanese, who have been dominated by the ruling Nationalist Party that retreated to this island from mainland China in 1949.

President Lee Teng-hui called for the conference in March after widespread public demonstrations demanding the scrapping of the system that has preserved the Nationalists' look on power.

"We would pay a very painful price should the conference fail to set the direction of reforms in accordance with public expectations," said Chen Yung-hsing, acting chairman of the nation's largest opposition group, the Democratic Progressive Party. He warned of violent demonstrations in case of a deadlock.

The one-week meeting will be attended by 150 delegates, including 80 members of the ruling party and 16 representatives from the DPP, independent academics and politicians account for the bulk of the remaining seats.

Their debate will focus on what to do with the 1947 constitution, enacted

in China by the Nationalist government two years before it lost a civil war to communists and retreated to the offshore island now home to 20 million people.

The Nationalists have since used the constitution as the legal basis for their political power.

Claiming to still be the legitimate government of all China, the Nationalists have not allowed native Taiwanese to vote for a majority of seats in the national legislature and the electoral college. Instead, the party froze in lawmakers elected to the Chinese mainland more than four decades ago.

The Nationalists have acknowledged the need for change as the aging lawmakers from mainland China die off and the increasingly affluent native Taiwanese who account for 85 per cent of the population, demand more political power.

The Nationalists are expected to propose changing the constitution so all members of Parliament are elected in Taiwan.

But the ruling party delegates appear divided over whether the electoral college should be replaced by presidential elections and whether the strong presidency should give way to a cabinet-led government.

The Democratic Progressive Party believes that just amending the constitution does not go far enough and wants to replace it with what they call a "great charter of democracy."

Australia to cut 10pc of all immigrants allowed

Chinese students can stay back

SYDNEY, June 27. (AP): Chinese students fearing reprisals in their homeland will be allowed to stay in Australia at least another four years, but at the cost of 10 per cent of all immigrants allowed into the country, officials said today.

The joint announcement by Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Immigration Minister Gerry Hand followed a marathon cabinet meeting yesterday.

The decision will affect nearly 30,000

Chinese students who arrived here by June 30, 1989, a little more than two weeks after Beijing's bloody crackdown against a pro-democracy movement. Many of the students had expressed fears that they might be punished after they returned home.

According to the statement today, future human rights conditions in China will dictate whether the Chinese students can stay beyond four years or gain permanent residence.

The announcement was likely to draw widespread criticism from the political opposition, students and leaders of other immigrant groups.

The students originally thought they would be allowed to stay permanently, without condition, after Hawke announced June 6 that a separate immigration category would be created for them. He then muddled the situation by saying they

could stay temporary, but that none would be forced to go back to China.

The category announced today will allow the Chinese to apply, beginning in August, for a special four-year residency permit. It will allow them to work and apply to have their families join them here.

The Chinese granted permanent residency would be part of the total number of immigrants allowed into the country, not a special, additional category.

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Unrest may lead to exodus of firms

MANILA, June 27. (AP): Political unrest, economic instability and government red-tape have begun driving multinational firms from the Philippines, and may lead to an exodus in the next two years' business leaders say.

During the past five months, 11 multinational corporations have moved their regional headquarters from Manila to other countries, such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, whose governments offer better incentives and a more stable business climate.

Those who have left include such major firms as Voest Alpine AG, General Electric, Mitsui Bank Ltd., GTE Directories Corp., Irving Trust Co., and Syntex Pharmaceuticals.

Of the 120 multinationals that still maintain regional offices here, 40 have made inquiries about relocating to other Southeast Asian countries, business sources said.

Those figures belie claims by President Corason Aquino's government that the country offers a favourable climate for international firms.

Interest in relocating from the Philippines accelerated after a failed coup attempt last December in which 113 people were killed.

The nine-day putsch took place a few weeks after Aquino toured the United States and Canada, promising business leaders that the armed threat to her government had been overestimated by the press and her political opponents.

Many key leaders of the failed bid remain at large and have vowed another coup.

An Austrian executive, speaking on condition of anonymity, said most multinationals have established contingency funds in case it becomes necessary to evacuate on short notice.

Businessmen also complained about the breakdown in infrastructure, including electricity and water shortages, a chaotic international airport, shoddy telecommunications, a painfully slow postal service and bureaucratic red tape.

Guenter Bernold, regional director of Krupp Maschinenbau GmbH, described the inefficiencies as "small things that make you fed up with the whole situation because they block our daily operations."

By contrast, Hong Kong and Singapore have "well developed transportation and communications infrastructures, besides other amenities incorporate operations such as minimal government red tape, tax and travel incentives, low crime rates and equitable treatment of local and foreign companies," said a report by the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies' regional headquarters.

Guilty of love

Imelda Marcos' only crime

NEW YORK, June 27. (Reuters): Imelda Marcos' lawyer told a jury yesterday that her only crime was loving her husband and that her prosecution for racketeering was a politically-motivated act to save US military bases in the Philippines.

Defence lawyer Gerry Spence said in his closing statement that Mrs Marcos may have been a world class shopper but she was also "a world class human being."

He added, "she has committed no crime except loving a man for 35 years, raising his children, taking his lavish gifts and being his ardent supporter."

Mrs Marcos, 60, is on trial charged with helping her late husband, ousted Philippine leader Ferdinand Marcos, steal more than \$200 million from the Philippine treasury to buy New York property and art work. He died last September.

She is charged with racketeering for allegedly channeling the stolen funds through secret accounts in banks in Switzerland, Italy and France. Mrs Marcos is also accused of defrauding US banks by giving them false information in order to obtain loans, mail fraud and obstruction of justice.

Spence said that Philippine President Corason Aquino had used US bases in the Philippines as leverage to force prosecution here. "No prosecution, no bases," Spence said, adding that Mrs Marcos had not been charged with any wrongdoing in her own country.

"There is no crime in being wealthy... spending money," Spence said. "There's no crime in buying jewellery (and) real estate in New York."

He argued that Marcos bought the property in the United States as an investment for his financially-troubled country.

Using high courtroom drama, Spence began his argument in a solemn tone that grew to a thunderous voice.

He ended by telling the jury the fate of "Imelda Marcos, my beloved client, is in your hands. When I place this woman in your hands, the law does not want you to compromise. You don't deal with justice like a used car."

Spence began paging through stacks of documents introduced as evidence by the government and said that none were signed by Mrs Marcos. "Where do you find a single word in this case that Mrs Marcos knew any of the details of who owned what and how they were acquired?" he said.

He said that accusations made by assistant US lawyer Charles Labella that the money spent on the property "must have been dirty" and that Mrs Marcos must have known it was "merely the prosecutor's fantasies."

"You don't convict people on 'must have's'," he said.

Spence said that even if Ferdinand Marcos conducted illegal transactions "he was telling people specifically not to tell her (Imelda). Even if it was dirty, she wasn't told."

Security on alert

Japan royal wedding

TOKYO, June 27. (Reuters): While Emperor Akihito's subjects line the Tokyo streets on Friday to cheer his son Prince Aya and Aya's new bride, thousands of Japanese police will be on top alert for threatened attacks by leftist radicals.

Officials at national police headquarters said today a special security command was being set up to guard against trouble as ceremonies take place to mark the nuptials of Aya, 24, and commoner bride Kiko Kawashima, 23.

Police declined to say how many men were being mobilised, but the Kyodo news agency said nearly 10,000 would be on duty in the capital alone.

Other press reports said up to 24,000 police would be deployed in Tokyo and in western Japan prefectures through which the newlyweds must travel to attend other rites.

The focus of particular attention is the short period after Friday's wedding at the Imperial Palace, when the couple are due to take a six-minute limousine ride through the streets to their new residence nearby.

In the minds of the security chiefs will be an incident at Akihito's own marriage in April, 1959, when a male attacker approached the carriage as it took the royal couple from the palace. No one was hurt.

Several leftist groups opposed to Japan's imperial system have vowed to disrupt Aya's wedding, which takes place just five months before even more lavish ceremonies to mark Akihito's enthronement in November.

There have been a string of attacks in recent years on imperial residences and temples of the Shinto religion, traditionally linked to the emperor, but no member of the emperor's family has been injured.

Liu wants to go home

Chinese journalist-in-exile

WASHINGTON, June 27. (Reuters): His memoirs have won rave reviews, he has been interviewed on US television and his name is in newspapers from Washington to Los Angeles.

To any other writer, this might spell success. But Liu Binyan, a leading Chinese journalist-in-exile, has already had success. Now he wants to go home.

Liu knows that may be impossible. "My readers are all back in China, so I would like to go back," Liu told Reuters in an interview in Chinese, which his wife, Zhu Hong, translated.

But after June 4 (the day in 1989 when the communist leadership sent troops and tanks into Tiananmen Square in Beijing to crush pro-democracy demonstrations) ... I spoke very outspokenly and, of course, the Chinese authorities were very angry at me and said that I had denounced them in the papers.

"They say I am a traitor."

As an investigative reporter for China Youth News and People's Daily, Liu specialised in stories of government corruption and waste, including vivid portraits of those who suffered as a result.

Describing the callousness of doctors, for example, he wrote: "In our society, there are those who only remember to carry their work certificates, their identification badges, but leave their hearts behind."

Liu's writings brought the kind of fame few journalists achieve. Millions of readers would buy a newspaper on the strength of his byline, and ultimately this popularity attracted dangerous attention from the government.

"Until he left China, he was clearly the most prominent journalist and was particularly well-known for going after corruption and exposing it in a very unconventional way," said Winston Lord, former US ambassador to Beijing.

Criticised as "bourgeois" and "individualistic" for committing such seemingly innocuous acts as whistling when he walked up stairs, Liu was purged from the Chinese Communist Party in 1957, rehabilitated 22 years later, then purged again in 1987.

Throughout those times — when he was sent to the countryside as a manual labourer and to perform other menial jobs — Liu believed in the theory of Chinese communism if not its practice.

The Chinese Communist Party seemed to lay great stress on the human factor, emphasising the subjective as a motivating force: at least it did in its theories and slogans. "Liu wrote in his autobiography 'A Higher Kind of Loyalty'."

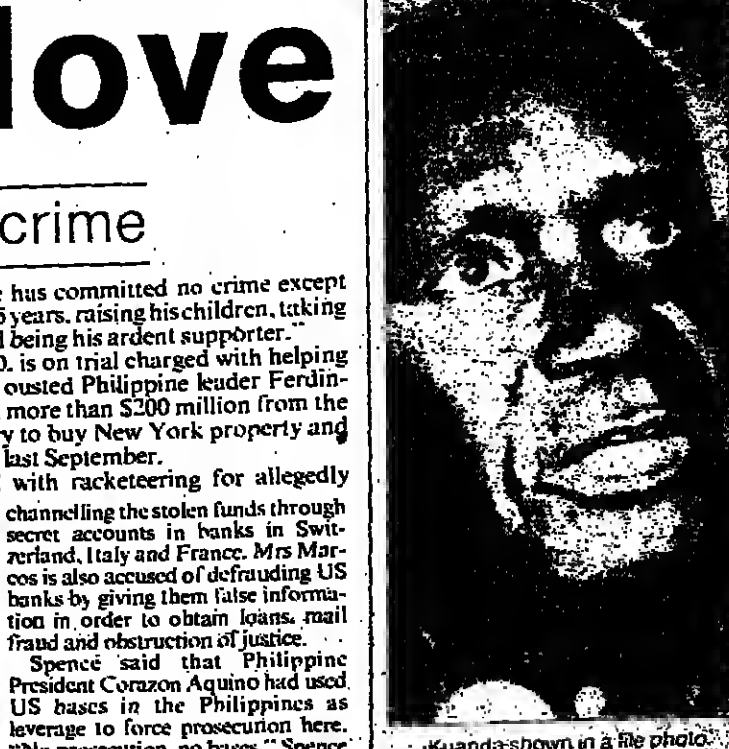
"But in reality, in China, human beings were of little importance... the masses had become completely apathetic to public affairs, and the workers, the so-called masters of the enterprises, were totally uninterested in their work."

He accepted a fellowship at Harvard University in 1988-89, and planned to return to China as the pro-democracy movement was blossoming in April 1989. Events at Tiananmen Square postponed his return indefinitely.

Since then, Liu has spent a term at Trinity College in Connecticut and will be at Princeton University in New Jersey next year.

He continues to write in the United States and hopes the Chinese-language edition of his memoirs finds its way into China even though it is sure to be banned there.

At 65, Liu plans to spend the next few months in East Berlin, with forays into other nations in the region "because we see many similarities between China and Eastern European countries."



Kaunda shown in a file photo

15 die in Lusaka price riots

LUSAKA, June 27. (AP): Police said today they arrested more than 550 people in two days of rioting over food prices that left at least 15 people dead.

Military helicopters flew low over the capital as sporadic rifle and machine gun fire throughout the night continued into this morning.

Rioting had also reportedly broken out late yesterday in the mineral-rich copper belt province in central Zambia.

Police spokesman Andrew Kaitisha said the arrests in Lusaka were aimed at finding "ringleaders" among the thousands of protesters who rampaged through most districts of the capital on Monday and Tuesday. The rioters looted stores, burned flags and chanted anti-government slogans.

"They were arrested for screening and are being interviewed by a special police team to find out who the agitators are," Kaitisha told the Associated Press.

Some of those held could expect an early release, he said. Kaitisha said the dusk to dawn curfew in Lusaka will be revised tomorrow.

Late yesterday, state radio and television announced the closing of all schools, businesses, government offices and stores today and said the curfew would be maintained throughout the day. Today, Kaitisha said that a full 36-hour curfew had not been imposed.

Conflicting curfew announcements came from police and army officials early today, but many residents were venturing onto the streets.

There were no immediate details of the extent of unrest on the copper belt, but reports said demonstrators clashed with security forces at the mining town of Kitwe, 360 kilometres (225 miles) north of Lusaka.

On Tuesday, doctors in Lusaka said at least 15 people died and 190 were wounded in two days of food riots sparked by a doubling of the price of Zambia's staple food, corn meal.

Most of the victims were hit by police and army gunfire in the worst civil unrest in the history of this southern African nation of 7.5 million people.

The increase in the price of corn meal from 114.50 to 269 kwacha (\$2.79 to \$6.56) was announced June 19 as part of an economic reform programme that included reducing state subsidies.

The unrest took on a further political dimension as demonstrators, mostly from Lusaka's most impoverished townships and shanties, demanded the ouster of President Kenneth Kaunda and an end to nearly five decades of socialist-style one-party rule.

Residents of the Lusaka suburb of Chilenje said rioters smashed their way into a home there once occupied by Kaunda, who was school teacher and preacher before he led his nation to independence from British colonial rule in 1964.

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Burma expels thousands from tourist spot

BANGKOK, June 27. (Reuters): Burma's military authorities, who have evacuated hundreds of thousands of people from major cities, are forcing thousands more to leave Pagan, an ancient landmark and the country's most popular tourist attraction, visitors said today.

No official reason was given for the latest expulsion, which precedes the opening of the ancient city to direct tourist flights from Thailand next month.

"The main strip of the town has just been emptied," one foreign businessman said.

The army government, which has ruled Burma

under tough martial law since crushing street protests in 1988, has in the name of progress forced up to 500,000 people out of Rangoon and Mandalay into fields outside the city.

Others have been jailed for dissent or forced into portering arms for government forces fighting in remote insurgent areas.

Government officials have said the relocation, begun in 1985 but accelerated during army rule, would ease congestion in the cities and give good housing to slum-dwellers and vagrants.

INTERNATIONAL

Soviet congress may be put off

Plenum to meet on Friday

MOSCOW, June 27. (AP) The Central Committee today said reformers had made mistakes, but there were indications leaders wanted to put off a key party congress until Mikhail Gorbachev's position is bolstered.

The congress, considered the 19-million-member party's highest organ, had been scheduled months ago for next Monday. But reports surfaced this week that it might be put off.

Radical reformer Boris Yeltsin said yesterday he favoured postponing the congress until autumn, to give time for the political situation to be stabilised.

A National Party official who spoke on condition of anonymity said today that a plenum was planned Friday at which the 249 members of the Central Committee would discuss putting off the Congress.



Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin speaks at a press conference in Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

A party spokesman Alexander Lebedev, told Reuters today it was "95 per cent certain" a plenary session of the party's policy-setting central committee would gather then to discuss the issue.

Lebedev said party ideological chief Vadim Medvedev, who according to reliable sources earlier this week sounded out leaders of communist parties in the Soviet republics, would give a new conference later today.

A postponement could prevent Communist Party hardliners from capitalising on their successes last week at a meeting of party members from the Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic. If conservatives dominated the congress, it could split the party and undermine Gorbachev, who has said he wants to remain head of both the party and the Soviet government.

The 2,700 party members at the Russian Federation meeting will be a majority among the 4,700-delegate national congress. Last week, Ivan Polozkov, an outspoken opponent of the current reforms, won election as first secretary of the communist party of the Russian Federation with the votes of nearly 1,400 of the delegates.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the congress, the Central Committee today published a "programme statement" that the congress will be asked to approve.

The programme, spread across almost two pages of the Communist Party daily Pravda, takes a repentant tone. It admits many of the party's recent reforms were not well thought-out or simply mistaken.

But it maintains that the country's main problem lay in the past distortion of socialism, not the ideology itself.

The programme backs many of Gorbachev's reforms, including the transition to a market economy and the party's rejection of political monopoly.

Yeltsin said yesterday responsibility for his protection was being taken out of the hands of the KGB and a special unit was being set up to guard him.

The Warsaw Pact failed to keep pace with reforms to Eastern Europe but will continue to exist as long as it meets the needs of its members, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was quoted yesterday as saying.

A Soviet spokesman yesterday denied reports that the government had removed nuclear weapons from the secessionist Baltic republics.

A high-ranking Soviet naval officer said yesterday the Soviet Union was reducing and at the same time modernising its navy by retiring or scrapping old warships and commissioning more sophisticated models.



Soviet ideologist Vadim Medvedev.

From 1993

Paris to ban tobacco ad

PARIS, June 27. (AP) By a vote of 315 to 149 today, the national assembly approved a bill that will ban all tobacco advertising and most liquor advertising starting in 1993.

The law, which takes effect Jan. 1, 1993, forbids all direct or indirect advertising for tobacco products, including sponsorships of sports and cultural events. It sharply restricts advertising for alcoholic beverages.

All 270 assembly members of the governing Socialist Party backed the bill, as did 43 independents and centrists. The two main centre-right parties adopted different tactics — most members of the Union for French Democracy voted against the bill, while most members of the rally for the republic abstained.

Politicians bid Dec 9 or 16 as dates for balloting

Bonn unveils proposals to unify

Sidelights

Hectic last days: Merchants shut stores and cleared shelves this week to make room for a deluge of western goods, forcing East Germans to forage for food and other necessities during the nation's hectic last days as a socialist state.

Officials disagreed over who was to blame for widespread shortages.

"There's no soap here, no meat," said Ines Kroll, a 25-year-old mother of two as she pushed her shopping cart past depleted shelves in the only store in Blankenburg, a small town north of Berlin.

Many stores selling household goods closed to clear space for the western products that will pour into the country after Sunday, when the Germanys merge their economies.

Some merchants said they also wanted to avoid taking in large amounts of East German marks in the days before the nearly worthless currency is replaced by the valuable West German mark.

Experts say many East German companies are keeping their products off the market until next week, when they can sell them for West German marks.

Compromise on Germany: Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said in an interview published on Wednesday that the Soviet Union was prepared to compromise on the future status of Germany.

He told the East German Communist Party



West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (left) and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Gensler (center) talk with Chancellor Minister Rudolf Seiters (right). (Reuters wirephoto)

newspaper Neues Deutschland a Soviet document on the future international status of Germany was "not the absolute, ultimate truth."

"It is a draft and we are prepared for compromises and variations," Shevardnadze said.

The future status of a united Germany has become one of the major outstanding disputes between East and West since the collapse of communism.

Western powers have said Germany should

be a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato).

The Soviet draft, rejected by the three Western World War Two powers and by West Germany in talks last Friday, calls for a five-year transition period during which West Germany would stay in Nato and East Germany in the Warsaw Pact.

It also calls for a phased withdrawal of Allied troops within three years of German unity and for limits on a future German army. (Reuters)

"We need to go through the door to unification because it can close shut again," Waigel said.

The Soviets, along with the United States, Britain and France — the allies who defeated Germany — figure heavily in talks on the international ramifications of German unification.

Still to be resolved are the military posture of a united Germany and the disposition of the 380,000 Soviet troops on East German soil.

Landsbergis insists on state Talks with Gorbachev

VILNIUS, June 27. (UPI) — Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said after talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that any negotiations with the Kremlin must deal with "restoration of Lithuania as a state."

Landsbergis received yesterday by Gorbachev at the Soviet President's invitation in an attempt to break a 3-1/2-month stalemate over Lithuania's declaration of independence that Gorbachev wants frozen before he lifts an economic blockade on the republic.

It was the first direct one-on-one meeting between the two men since Lithuania's parliament declared the republic sovereign in a bold move to regain the independence lost when the Soviet Union annexed it in 1940. The other Baltic republics — Latvia and Estonia — have passed similar declarations, though not as bold as Lithuania's.

Landsbergis returned to Vilnius immediately after the meeting and told the Lithuanian parliament that the republic will aim for full statehood once negotiations commence — an apparent setback for Gorbachev's hopes to keep Lithuania in a new Soviet federation.

"The subject of any negotiations should be very clear — that is, the restoration of Lithuania as a state," Landsbergis told the legislature.

He later told a news conference the Soviet Union wants Lithuania to negotiate as a union republic wanting secession while he was insisting that Lithuania must negotiate as an independent state with another state.

Landsbergis told reporters that Moscow's nearly three-month cutoff of all oil and 85 per cent of natural gas supplies had cost Lithuania's economy hundreds of thousands of roubles.

He said eight industrial plants closed and dozens of others were partly affected. He gave no unemployment figures, but in the past Lithuania has mentioned 40,000 out of work because of the blockade.

Landsbergis, a former music professor and father of Lithuania's independence movement, said the next step was to adopt some sort of document to satisfy Gorbachev but insisted it need not take the form of an outright moratorium on the independence act.

He told parliament the results of the meeting "are not particularly gladdening, since earlier both Lithuania and the Soviet Union made certain steps to bring their positions closer together, but now they are requiring unilateral concessions from us to close the remaining distance."

"Moscow has not exhausted its possibilities for compromise," he told Lithuanian radio.

RPR and UDF form alliance

PARIS, June 27. (AP) France's two main political opposition groups decided yesterday to form an alliance and present a single presidential candidate in 1995.

The agreement between the conservative Rally for the Republic Party and the Union for French Democracy, a centre-right coalition, will avoid "fratricidal battles" in the 1995 election, said RPR leader, former Premier Jacques Chirac.

The groups said their confederation, called the Union for France, will choose a presidential candidate through a series of American-style primaries culminating in a national convention.

Chirac and former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, head of the UDF, said the confederation would exclude any alliances with the extreme-right National Front or the governing Socialist Party.

"Each movement will retain its personality" within the confederation, Chirac said.

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MIDEAST/INTERNATIONAL

Liberia
troops
disperse
march

MONROVIA, June 27, (AP): Soldiers fired in the air and beat demonstrators with rifle butts today to disperse a march by thousands of people demanding that President Samuel Doe resign to end a six-month-old civil war.

Witnesses said that troops had shot at the protesters, but those reports could not be immediately confirmed.

There were no immediate word on casualties.

Reporters who sought shelter in a shantytown near the Barclay Training centre barracks where the shooting started heard numerous commands to cease fire. But the commands were followed by bursts of gunfire from M-16 rifles and screams from protesters and other civilians trying to flee.

A US embassy official said several injuries from gunfire were confirmed but no deaths immediately could be confirmed after the incident, which happened around 1000 GMT.

After the troops opened fire, soldiers went on a shooting spree in the streets of Monrovia, firing submachine guns wildly to disperse demonstrators, said the embassy official.

By early afternoon the situation appeared to be calming down as citizens began to creep onto the streets to try and find their way home.

"They were shooting in the air at random with AK-47s, Uzis and M-16s," said the US embassy official. "If you were out on the streets you just ran for your life."

At one point military police tried to stop the rampaging troops but the MPs were ignored by the soldiers, witnesses said.

Some witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they saw several of the demonstrators fall after the troops began firing. Some of the protesters apparently fell into open drains during the stampede.

Other witnesses said they saw soldiers beating marchers at the front of the procession with rifle butts while dispersing the protest.

The march, the second in as many days, was organised by the citizens' Committee for Democracy and Peace, which includes members of student unions, trade unions and civic organisations. Thousands turned out for the protest.

Rebels who have captured most of the country since they began fighting in December are demanding Doe's resignation. Protesters have taken up that rallying cry, hoping such a move would end the fighting.

The sounds of gunshots could be heard all over Monrovia more than an hour after the incident, including the plush Mamba Point suburb where the US and other embassies are located.

Yesterday's march, headed by Christian and Muslim leaders, was the first demonstration in Monrovia calling for the resignation of Doe.

Trans-Atlantic crossing: An Australian designed and built "Sea Cat" wave-piercing catamaran named Great Britain Hover-speed has broken the trans-Atlantic Ocean crossing speed record previously held by the luxury liner the USS United States.

The previous record for the crossing from the USA to Britain, a distance of 3,200 miles, was under three days, ten hours, and forty minutes.

The "Sea Cat" was designed and developed by International Catamarans of Hobart, Australia, and built in Australia.

China executes 14: China executed 14 drug traffickers in the southwestern city of Kunming yesterday after parading them before 40,000 people at a rally against narcotics.

State television showed film of the handcuffed men standing in a stadium in the capital of Yunnan province as their sentences were read out.

Named one of them as Yang Zhengmao, but gave no further details. All were taken elsewhere for execution, often carried out with a bullet in the back of the head. (Reuters)

Sino-Soviet talks: China and the Soviet Union ended a first round of talks yesterday to reduce military forces and strengthen trust along the Sino-Soviet border, the official New China News Agency (NCNA) said.

The two sides discussed implementation of an accord on demilitarisation reached during a visit to Moscow by Chinese Premier Li Peng in April.

The only agreement reached during the negotiations, which began on June 15, was to hold further talks in Moscow some time this autumn, according to Soviet embassy sources. (Reuters)

World News Roundup

America

Abortion bill: The Louisiana Senate approved a bill that prohibits abortion even in cases of rape and incest.

The bill, passed Tuesday by the State House of Representatives last week, would send doctors convicted of performing abortions to prison for 10 years of hard labour. It would be the toughest state abortion law in the country.

The house will get the bill again, possibly as early as Wednesday, to vote on amendments the senate added to clarify that abortion would be allowed to save the life of the mother.

Then it would head to Gov. Buddy Roemer, who has promised to veto the bill in its present form. (AP)

Test-tube tiger: The world's first test-tube tiger cub pounced and growled during her National Zoo debut Tuesday before settling down with a big bottle of milk.

The 20-pound (9-kg) bouncing Bengal tiger is one of a litter of three cubs produced by in vitro fertilization in an effort to save endangered tiger species.

Mary Alice, the only surviving cub, was born by Caesarean section April 27.

"This is a marvellous step forward for all those cats on the verge of extinction," said Michael Robinson, director of the National Zoo. "In 20 years of our lifetime, we have lost three subspecies of tigers." (AP)

Protecting rare owl: At least 1,000 loggers will lose their jobs in order to protect the rare northern spotted owl as the federal government cuts back on timber harvests in the owl's habitat, according to a plan announced Tuesday.

An earlier proposal by government scientists to protect the owl would have put an estimated 27,000 loggers out of work.

The plan announced Tuesday, the latest move in a controversy that has pitted environmentalists against loggers, stops short of being a comprehensive plan for saving an estimated 6,000 owls and retaining as many logging jobs as possible. (AP)

Cheney to visit Spain: US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will visit Spain, Greece, Turkey and Portugal during a two-week trip to NATO's southern flank beginning on Sunday, the Defence Department said on Tuesday.

Cheney also plans a brief stop in Norway next week during the crisis defence officials said.

Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams told reporters a schedule would be released later in the week. But defence officials said privately that Cheney planned to leave on Saturday and arrive in Spain on Sunday on the first leg. (Reuters)

Dimitrios to visit US: Orthodox Patriarch Dimitrios I of Constantinople, who is to arrive in Washington next week as part of a first-ever US tour by an ecumenical patriarch, hopes to mend fences with the various Orthodox denominations, according to senior church leaders.

Among other activities in the 25-day US visit will be a meeting with President Bush and a major ecumenical prayer service at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, church spokesmen said.

Although there are disagreements and old rivalries among the several Orthodox Christian religious traditions — Russian, Greek and Turkish, primarily — disputes will be downplayed during Dimitrios' trip, church elders told the Washington Times. (Kuna)

Asia

'Fire Boy' bares all: For Li Jinyu, who spent his first 24 years in the nude, getting dressed to go to town was a big occasion.

Li, a peasant to southwest China's Sichuan province, refused to wear clothes until a local doctor last year coaxed him out of his lifelong "clothes phobia," the official China daily said today.

Li, nicknamed "Fire Boy" by local villagers for his ability to endure the coldest weather, was illiterate but not ignorant and led a normal life except for his lack of clothing, the newspaper said.

It showed a picture of a naked Li playing Chinese chess while a peasant in a heavy coat and fur hat looks on.

At two months, Li cried hysterically when his mother tried to dress him. At age six, he couldn't go to school because he resisted all attempts to clothe him. (AP)

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It said the government "is controlled by

Widespread torture and killings in post-coup Sudan reported

LONDON, June 27, (UPI): Human rights have deteriorated under Sudan's military government, which tortures and kills political foes in secret detention centers and organizes "disappearances" in the northeast African country, Amnesty International said.

A second report released by Africa Watch, another human rights group, also claimed an escalation of state-backed brutality.

It said the government "is controlled by



New crossing

East German workers dismantle the wall in Berlin's Kreuzberg district to build new crossing point. With the beginning of the currency union on July 1 more than hundred streets from East to West Berlin once divided by the wall will be connected again. (Reuters wirephoto)



Soviet Congress

A Soviet worker repairs the pavement in front of Lenin's mausoleum on the Red Square yesterday. As the Soviet Communist Party heads into its 28th and possibly last Congress. (Reuters wirephoto)

US gunmen hold
up armoured car

\$10m stolen

ROCHESTER, New York, June 27, (AP): Gunmen have stolen more than \$10 million in one of the largest armoured car robberies in US history, authorities said.

"It certainly was planned — no question about that — and was obviously rather successful," local sheriff Andrew P. Meloni said of the robbery that occurred yesterday morning when two armoured car employees stopped for breakfast.

The thieves escaped with \$10.8 million, law enforcement authorities told the Rochester Times-Union newspaper. Meloni said he could not confirm the amount.

The theft could be the second largest of its kind in US history.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's public affairs office in Washington, D.C., said its records indicate the largest theft from an armoured car in US history was \$11 million taken in 1982 from a sentry armoured car Courier Co. office in the New York City. In 1983, \$7 million was stolen from a Wells Fargo armoured car office in Hartford, Connecticut.



Pope John visit

A child surveys the basilica of Our Lady of Peace in the Ivory Coast's capital Yamoussoukro. Pope John Paul II will visit Ivory Coast in September to consecrate the basilica built and donated to the Holy See by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. (Reuters wirephoto)

Europe

Catalogue of stolen art: In a major effort to crack down on art theft, France, for the first time, yesterday published a detailed catalogue of art works stolen from its museums.

Among the findings: most recent thefts were from museum storage rooms, not exhibit halls, and were probably inside jobs.

Five hundred copies of the catalogue are being distributed to police, museums and customs officials, art dealers, auctioneers and experts, said Andre Treps of the Interior Ministry.

The catalogue, which lists 200 works stolen between 1979 and 1989, is published jointly by the Department of National Museums and the Interior Ministry in a new effort to track down stolen art and crack down on resale. (AP)

Van Gogh's fake work: Sotheby's auction house pulled a painting attributed to Vincent Van Gogh out of a sale yesterday after the Amsterdam museum devoted to the artist warned it could be a fake.

The roughly worked little picture of a house with a red roof between trees and two figures on a path, titled "The Steps at Auvers" ("L'Escalier a Auvers"), had been expected to bring £2 million to £3 million (\$3.5 to \$5.2 million) in the Tuesday night sale of Impressionist and modern art. (AP)

WWF seeks ban extension: The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) called yesterday for an extension to the year 2000 of a ban on commercial whaling to help depleted populations to recover.

"If the moratorium is lifted it could be catastrophic. We could be 'regulating' certain populations into extinction," said Elizabeth Kent, the WWF delegate to the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

WWF said in a statement that 13,650 whales have been killed since the IWC placed a ban on commercial whaling in 1986.

Japan continued commercial whaling under a technical objection to IWC provisions until 1988, and along with Iceland and Norway it has continued killing whales for "scientific" purposes. (Reuters)

UK-Irish talks: British Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke was having unexpected talks in Dublin today with Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins, it was announced.

The day of the meeting was to iron out any lingering doubts about the role of Dublin in Brooke's imminent bid to force a new political dialogue in the trouble-bound province of Northern Ireland, UK sources said.

They pointed out that Brooke initially wants to promote new cross-party discussions in Northern Ireland, involving different political parties and religious convictions. (Kuna)

Queen for Canada: Queen Elizabeth II left Iceland for Canada, where she will view regiments that give her allegiance and attend a ceremony to mark Canada Day.

Buckingham Palace said the British monarch would soon depart from Reykjavik, where she has been since Monday on the first leg of her visit.

In Iceland, the Queen has attended various functions arranged by the government and laid a wreath at a Commonwealth war cemetery. She also visited hot springs and a horse stud farm. (UPI)

Abortion for promotion: Career women in the UK are having more abortions than ever before to prevent their promotion prospects being marred by babies, it was reported today.

The trend was revealed in record aborting figures of 504 each day in England and Wales. More terminations for women aged 25 to 35 are the main cause of the rise, the report pointed out.

Tenage abortions fell slightly to under 40,000 last year, which still represents 108 abortions each day. (Kuna)

Soviet paratroopers in France: An eight-man team of Soviet paratroopers, led by group commander and general Vladimir Artyukov and Albert Slousarev, is in France on an official visit, at the invitation of the French forces, it was reported today by the press service of the army (Sipa).

During their stay in France, which started on Monday, the Soviet team will visit several paratrooper bases in different cities, notably Toulouse, Pau and Tarbes, Sipa said.

The four-day visit of the Soviet paratroopers falls within the second on exchanges between the French and Soviet forces signed at the beginning of July 1989, during President Mikhail Gorbachev's state visit to France. (Kuna)

Priceless painting recovered: Police yesterday recovered a priceless 18th century painting stolen from a Venice church in a night burglary last week.

The painting by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, considered the best of the great Venetian artists, was found in a flat near the church of San Simeone over the Grand Canal from which it was taken last Thursday night. The canvas had been cut from its frame.

Police detained a 30-year-old man and charged him with theft. They said that thieves had crept along rooftops, forced open an iron grating and lowered themselves to the floor down a 10 metre (33 foot) rope. (Reuters)

French nuclear bomb: France exploded a nuclear bomb yesterday at an underground atomic test site in the Pacific Ocean, the Defence Ministry said.

A terse statement said: "The yield was less than 100 kilotonnes." One kilotonne is equivalent to 1,000 tons of TNT. The device was detonated at 1800 GMT.

Tuesday's explosion, beneath Fangataufa Atoll in the Mururoa Atoll test site, was the second since the new information policy was introduced.

Train derailed in Italy: A train derailed yesterday in central Italy near a post seaside resort, railway police said. Thirty passengers were reported injured.

The train was heading from Alessandria in northern Italy to Rome when the accident occurred Tuesday afternoon. The train derailed as it entered the Orbetello station. (AP)

Since the June 30, 1989, military coup that ousted Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi, "hundreds of political opponents have been detained and many others have been executed or extrajudicially killed," Amnesty said.

Amnesty reported summary executions and killings committed by government forces and armed civilian militias in southern Sudan which began before the coup, continue under the military rule.

"In October and November, more than

a hundred civilian non-combatants were deliberately killed by pro-government militia in areas of armed conflict," the London-based organization said. It reported 42 people of southern origin "disappeared" after their arrest in Khartoum last October.

Amnesty said 28 officers charged with plotting to overthrow the government were executed in April this year after "unfair trials," without full legal representation and with no option to appeal.



Club for Gorbachev's supporters

A young man points from a balcony of Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre during an inaugural evening June 26 for a newly created Club for Mikhail Gorbachev's supporters. The Soviet President did not attend the evening. (Reuters wirephoto)

Students
start
hunger
strike

SOFIA, June 27, (AP): Authorities warned yesterday they may use force to end student protests spreading across Bulgaria.

The students are protesting alleged election violations and demanding changes in the media.

In Sofia, 21 university teachers, journalists and students' parents went on a hunger strike to back the demands of students who want a probe of alleged fraud in this month's free elections. The socialist, the former Bulgarian Communist Party, won the elections.

The students also seek the removal of the head of state television and a probe into comments allegedly made by President Petar Mladenov urging the use of tanks against anti-government demonstrators on Dec 14.

The Sofia hunger strikers lined up outside the downtown national assembly, or parliament, which meets July 10 for the first time since the elections.

Meanwhile, students at Sofia's Kliment Ohridski University, who have been joined by students at many other Bulgarian universities, continued a sit-in protest they began two weeks ago.

A statement issued by the Interior Ministry indicated authorities may order police to end the protests.

The strikes are "essentially a political action" and are disrupting learning and exams at universities, it said.

Security forces are ready to restore order if instructed to do so by the state prosecutor's office, it said.

The students have received support from the leadership of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces, which clinched 144 of 400 parliamentary seats in elections earlier this month.

Tens of thousands attended an opposition rally in support of the students late on Monday in downtown Sofia, which emerged in the elections as a UDF stronghold.

"The opposition supports the spontaneous protest of the students against the government over the election abuses," Dimitar Lendzev, a UDF leader, was quoted as saying by the state news agency BTA.

Addressing the rally, Lendzev blamed the government for remaining silent and for refusing to meet the students halfway.

The opposition initially spoke of massive manipulations of the elections June 10 and 17, but then accepted the results. The students say they want the truth about alleged irregularities.

They also reiterated calls for the resignation of Pavel Pavlov, director of state television, who is accused of incomplete and biased reporting.

Mladenov has denied student charges that he urged the use of tanks against demonstrators.

Most of the 16 parties in the UDF, entire research institutes and many intellectuals have voiced support for the students.

BTA said. In Sofia, 70,000 signatures have been collected to back their demands.

Shamir backs
German unity

Pledge to tone down EEC

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 27, (AP): The presidents of the West and East German parliaments said today they won Israeli assurances that the Jewish state will not place obstacles on the road to German unity.

The understanding, appeared to include a promise that a united Germany will back Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians and use its considerable influence to tone down growing European

Economic Community criticism of the Jewish state.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "gave us an unconditional yes to reunification," Ritz Shikshuf, 53, of West Germany, told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to Israel with her East German counterpart, Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, 43.

Shamir spokesman Avi Pazner said the prime minister "does not oppose reunification."

Shamir also told the visitors he expected a united Germany "to influence other members of the European Economic Community to adopt a more understanding attitude toward Israel," Pazner said. (AP)

The two presidents indicated that they were ready to meet the expectations. Throughout the trip, they reiterated the importance of Israel's right to exist in secure borders but did not mention Palestinian demands for self-determination. They had no meetings with Palestinians.

Dr Sabine Bergmann-Pohl

Jerusalem not dangerous

Life unpleasant

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 27, (AP): Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek assured his German visitors today that Jerusalem was undivided and that the Palestinian uprising had made life in the city "unpleasant, but not dangerous."

But when the guests — the presidents of the West and East German parliaments and their entourages — later walked through Jerusalem's Old City, they weren't allowed to cross the invisible line that divides the Jewish and Arab sectors.

"The Israelis probably thought it was too dangerous for us to set foot in the Arab side," said one West German official, who insisted on anonymity.

Israeli security concerns became clear when the group, which included 19 high school students, reached the edge of the Old City's Jewish quarter.

When some of the German youths wandered toward the adjoining Muslim quarter, lured by the colorful bazaar, they were gently ushered back toward the Jewish side.

A policeman turned away two Arab women who were headed toward the Jewish quarter, saying: "This is not the time to be here."

During the walk through the Jewish quarter no uniformed police were visible, but when the delegation approached the Muslim quarter, two armed riot policemen came running for added protection.

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Weekend VIDEO

Solhiya Tower, Shop No 18 Mezzanine Floor, Fahd Al Salem St., Mofa

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Weekend VIDEO

Solhiya Tower, Shop No 18 Mezzanine Floor, Fahd Al Salem St., Mofa

MIDEAST

Influx drop may reflect change

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 27. (AP) A slowdown in immigration of Soviet Jews this month could reflect a change in Soviet policy that had been threatened by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, an Israeli immigration official said today.

Boaz Shvimer, a spokesman for the quasi-governmental Jewish agency, which assists in settling immigrants, said the rate of immigrant arrivals stopped growing in June.

"At this point I wouldn't say it is

(Soviet) policy," he said in a telephone interview. "It is still too early to decide. However, I would be careful not to rule it out entirely."

A Jewish agency official who requested anonymity said immigrants travelling through Vienna this month had complained that an official Soviet government order was delaying exit visas.

In a news conference in the United States on June 3, Gorbachev said the Soviet Union was being hampered by a lot of criticism from Arab states over some

of the Soviet immigrants settling in the occupied West Bank.

Gorbachev added that if Israel does not reconsider its policy, "we must give further thought to it in terms of what we can do with issuing permits for exit."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has tried to reassure the Soviet Union by saying that Israel does not direct immigrants to the territories. On the other hand, he said Israel cannot block them from moving where they want.

"Everybody in a democratic country

has a right to settle wherever he wishes," Shamir told Israeli radio yesterday.

Arab states and local Palestinians say they fear settling Soviet immigrants on war-won land could force out Palestinians and undermine their efforts for an independent state.

IDA Ben Shitrit, spokeswoman for the government's Absorption Ministry, said that 8,405 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel during the first 26 days of June. At that rate, June's total will be about 9,700, down nearly 600 from May.



Juergen Hippenstiel

German jailed for Libyan C-plant

MANNHEIM, West Germany, June 27. (AP) A state court today convicted a West German industrialist of helping build a poison gas factory in Libya and sentenced him to five years in prison.

Juergen Hippenstiel-Imhausen, described by prosecutors as a "merchant of death," was found guilty of tax evasion and violating export laws in connection with his ties to a plant at the Libyan city of Rabta, south of Tripoli.

Libya has said that the plant at Rabta was intended for producing pharmaceuticals, but US and West German officials have said it was built to manufacture poison gas.

Chief Judge Juergen Henniger said evidence showed the plant was "clearly intended for the production of chemical warfare agents," including mustard gas and other poison gases.

Henniger said that Hippenstiel-Imhausen also was aware of the plant's purpose even before he signed the contract in 1984 to build it for Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi.

A West German television network said yesterday that Libya is planning to build a second poison gas plant with the help of two West German companies and a firm in the Netherlands.

The ARD TV network, citing US and West German intelligence sources, said Libya intends to build the second plant using plans furnished by a German company, Hippenstiel-Imhausen, for the first plant.

The television report said two West German companies, Rose and Abacus, are suspected of having ties to the second plant.

Egypt counsels peace as Israel teaches war

(Continued from Page 1)

ned to the territories but that units were being redeployed.

The radio also said that Brig. Gen. Amnon Strassov, the army's chief legal officer, had been asked to determine if what new legal steps could be taken against stone-throwers.

Also today, the Hebrew daily Yediot Ahroon reported that US Ambassador William Brown had delivered a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on the US suspension last week of its dialogue with the PLO.

Israeli peace activists will meet PLO officials in Sweden despite a government ban against contacts with the organisation, sources said today.

A spokesman for the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) said a four-member Israeli delegation and Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories left for Sweden this morning at the invitation of the University of Uppsala.

Parliamentarian Dedi Zucker, head of the Israeli delegation, told army radio before leaving: "One of the cases in which meetings are permitted is within the framework of an international academic gathering... it is completely legal."

The PLO welcomed today condemnation of Israel by European Economic Community (EEC) leaders and said Washington should punish Israel for human rights abuses by suspending aid.

Bassam Abu Sharrif, political adviser to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, said, "the position taken at the Dublin (summit) meeting is a serious and responsible position towards the dangerous developments in the Middle East."

"We see it in a qualitative leap in the right direction and a message to the countries of the world that they should act to bring an end to the sufferings of the Palestinian people."

Iran relief experts brace for dangers

Outbreak of disease, hard winter major problems

MANJIL, Iran, June 27. (AP) Relief workers helping Iranis recover from a massive earthquake are trying to guard against the next dangers: a possible outbreak of disease, and winds that roar through the region.

"There are two great problems now, especially for Manjil," said Christian Brauner, a disaster specialist with the German Red Cross.

The first, he said, is the danger of disease being carried into the ground water with rains falling on bodies trapped in rubble.

The second is the cold and hard winter, when winds reach 50 knots (93 kph) through this town in a pass in the Alborz mountains.

"We have only four to five months to build some new homes,"

Brauner said.

Many earthquake survivors will be moved out temporarily so reconstruction can be sped along, said Sadredine Sadr, director of international affairs at the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the Islamic equivalent of the Red Cross.

Kingsley Seevaratnam, an official of the Geneva-based League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, said Iranian authorities also want to depopulate the region quickly to avoid possible epidemics.

Brauner said bodies buried in normal funerals do not pose a threat to



A homeless Iranian boy walks past a tent camp set up near the Kelshum village in Iran. (Reuters wirephoto)

ground water, but that bodies trapped in rubble can spread their bacteria into the water supply.

Brauner said he hoped to persuade German Red Cross authorities to send experts in repairing water and sewage systems to help Iran provide clean water supply for the people who remain.

Manjil is a place in the mountains of northwestern Iran where weather is often extreme.

Hot winds from the Saudi Arabian desert stream through from the southwest in summer, and icy blasts from the Siberian Steppes howl past in winter.

Iranian authorities are already discussing how to rebuild the dwellings and other buildings, but Brauner said he believes there is too little time to finish the job before winter sets in.

"I am trying to organise very big (shipping) containers with good insulation," he said, adding that he hoped to get West Germany to contribute the shelters.

Tents now being given out for temporary housing will be inadequate when winter comes, Brauner said. They will be torn to ribbons," he said.

The US government is willing to send a second planeload of relief supplies to earthquake victims and is willing to hear what is needed, officials said yesterday.

Meanwhile, a group of Iranian expatriates plan to fly to Tehran on Saturday. Among them are doctors, nurses and engineers.

"As soon as we hear from them, we will help," an official said.

At the State Department, spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said that the United States "is interested in helping in a very tragic situation... Politics don't enter into it."

Iran has thanked Western nations for helping out but warned them that old scores are still festering.

With virtually no hope left that rescuers will find survivors still alive in devastated villages, radical leaders spoke out against the United States, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and British author Salman Rushdie.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said relations with France would be "more promising than in the past" because of France's contribution to helping after last Thursday's earthquake.

The Asian group of states called yesterday for a brief resumed session of the General Assembly to discuss emergency aid to Iran after last week's devastating earthquake.

A spokesman for Pakistan, current chairman of the group, said he expected the assembly, which is not currently in session, to meet on Thursday.



Foreman's tomb

The discovery of the tomb of an ancient lower-class Egyptian has excited archaeologists whose knowledge of the period is largely restricted to Pharaohs and aristocrats.

The 4,600-year-old tomb, probably belonged to a foreman who helped build one of the pyramids, Zahir Hawas, director of the Giza archaeological area, told Reuters on Tuesday.

He said, "it's a shed new light on the lives of ordinary people, some of them astonishingly buried at 18 years old whom little is known."

The tomb-busts inside most Egyptian tombs reveal only the lifestyle of the tiny ruling class.

The foreman's tomb, near one of the pyramids, was found by chance. Tourists riding camels' spurs, wrote away a sand dune until the limestone and mud-brick structure poked above the surface two meters ago.

"Its ceiling is vaulted. It is a very unique architectural style of the old kingdom," Hawas said. (Reuters wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Arab ministers to meet: A high-ranking Palestinian official said today that Arab foreign ministers will hold their extraordinary summit to discuss Washington's decision of suspending its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, after Eid al Adha.

Head of the information department at the PLO and member of the PLO executive committee Yasser Abd Rabbo said that the date of the meeting had not been set yet and is still under study by some Arab countries. (KUNA)

Algerian union reformers protest: Algeria's trade union federation opened a general congress yesterday with a reformist minority denouncing an old guard leadership so far insulated from the country's move towards democracy.

More than 200 trade unionists demonstrated outside the domed hall and distributed leaflets.

"It's a set-up job. It's controlled by the leadership close to the ruling party, the National Liberation Front. That's why I'm boycotting it, even though I've been elected as a delegate," Hassan Mahroug from near Algiers told Reuters. (Reuters)

Italian volunteers: The Italian peace association has opened registration for the Italians who want to take part in voluntary work in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in support of Palestinian people and their intifada.

The work camps will be held in July and August, where the volunteers will help the Palestinian people in constructing kindergartens and health clinics in several cities and villages of the occupied territories, in coordination with the Palestinian national work committees. (KUNA)

Hunt for naked soldiers: Israeli military police are searching for a group of soldiers spotted cowering naked on the roof of a house in the occupied West Bank village of Abu Dis, outraging Arab residents.

"They went about completely naked, we tried to talk to them but they cursed and shouted," a local shopkeeper said. "They started washing in the cisterns, we stopped drinking the water."

An unnamed army officer told Israeli television that residents had photographed the naked soldiers on the roof, which had been commandeered as a look-out post. (Reuters)

Libya accuses US, Israel: Libya's official news agency yesterday accused the United States and Israel of trying to gain control of valuable water resources in the Middle East.

Jana quoted Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi as saying recently that "America is plotting for the Arab region and the Zionist (Israel) will expand in the basin of the River Jordan and will impose war inevitably... This means that Jordan and the Arabs are forced to enter in a war for water," said the dispatch, monitored in Rome. (AP)

Saddam warns of Israeli raid



Saddam Hussein

NICOSIA, June 27. (AP) Iraqi President Saddam Hussein today reiterated that Israel would eventually invade Arab countries, the Iraqi news agency reported.

Saddam called upon Arabs to adopt a unified stand against Israel's "expansionist mission," the agency said in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus.

He said Israel's expansionist plans had "become clear."

"Israel has reached a point where it has to continue so as to achieve its slogan (of an Arab stretching) 'from the Nile to the Euphrates,'" Saddam said.

He spoke at a symposium commemorating the first anniversary of the death of Michel Aduq, founder of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party.

It was the latest in a series of Iraqi and other Arab warnings that Israel would attack Arab countries. In the past weeks and months Israel has repeatedly denied that it intends to launch such an attack.

The Iraqi President said earlier this year that if Israel attacked his country's military installations, he would retaliate with sophisticated binary chemical weapons.

Saddam has accused Israel and Western countries of whipping up anti-Iraqi hysteria over his weapons development programme.

Reform rabbis call for electoral change in Israel to curb power of minority groups

SEATTLE, June 27. (AP) Reform rabbis have called for a new system of electoral government in Israel that would prevent minority parties from paralyzing policy.

It was the first time the central conference of American rabbis has criticised Israel's electoral system, said Rabbi Elliot Stevens, conference administrative secretary.

"The current system of proportional representation gives disproportionate power to minority groups, many of which are anti-Zionist or disaffected," a conference resolution said yesterday.

Diaspora Jews are those living outside of Israel.

It blamed the system for "governmental paralysis for the last five years despite pressing political and economic challenges."

"It has given a tremendous amount of power to the right," said Rabbi Alfred Gotschalk, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

The conference represented about 1,550 rabbis world-wide who serve 1.6 million reform Jews, about 1.5 million of whom are American. The reform movement is the most liberal and largest of

Judaism's three main branches.

On Monday the conference voted to support openly gay and lesbian rabbis while reaffirming heterosexuality as the sexual orientation that must be chosen where choice is possible. The movement is the largest Jewish or Christian religious group to support homosexual clergy.

About 500 rabbis are attending a four-day annual convention that ends today. About 140 voted in yesterday's session.

"We want to carefully distinguish between our concern about any policy Israel may follow and

Israel-bashing," said Rabbi Samuel Karff of Houston, president of the conference.

The resolution, which replaced a much briefer mention, called on Israel's major parties, Labour and Likud, to move toward electoral reform.

"We are hearing all kinds of criticism of Israel and now we are called on for a few words of good will... for God's sake let's not go all the way in pulling out support for Israel as we've been doing this afternoon," pleaded Joseph Glaser, conference executive vice president. He failed to save a clause praising Israel's judicial system.

Threat to kill US aid official

PESHAWAR, June 27. (AP) Muslim fundamentalists threatened to kill the American director of the largest private relief group working with refugees from the war in Afghanistan, officials said yesterday.

The death threat against Thomas Yates, director of the International Rescue Committee, was made in a letter delivered Sunday to the World Food Programme, said the officials, who insisted they not be identified by name, nationality or address.

The letter, made available to the Associated Press, was written in fluent English and addressed "to whom it may concern." It warned Western aid groups were being watched and said Yates would be killed to prove the claim, "putting the car he drove, the clothes he wore and places he often went."

"We know your secrets and your locations," said the letter, signed by the International Jihad Organisation.

The group has been linked with Hezb-i-Islami, the most anti-West of the seven resistance groups based in Pakistan. Spokesmen for Hezb-i-Islami said the attacks were justified, but denied involvement.

The officials said Yates and his family had left Peshawar, the frontier town that has served as the staging area for the mujahedeen, who have been trying for 12 years to overthrow the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan.

The US-based International Rescue Committee opened its Peshawar operations in 1980 and has sponsored educational, agricultural and health care programmes in the border camps where about 4 million Afghans have taken refuge during the war.

Attacks against private Western relief groups have increased since late April, and many agencies have threatened to shut down their operations unless the government guarantees their safety.

To a related development, the American-based Shelter Now International said yesterday it was indefinitely suspending its operation, pending a final decision by the board of directors.

Shelter Now has been the target of repeated fundamentalist attacks in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. The decision to freeze its operation was prompted by the June 16 attempted murder of its director, American Thor Armstrong.

"Although we may never know the motive behind this attack, we are convinced this was not just a coincidence but a serious sign of the escalating danger to both expatriates and Afghans," the release said.

"This is not an easy decision but circumstances leave us no choice," it said.

When the Soviet Union withdrew its soldiers from Afghanistan in February 1989 after nine years of military involvement, Western backers of the rebel government-in-exile predicted it would replace the communist-style government in Kabul.

But the mujahedeen have failed to achieve a significant military victory, and the government-in-exile has degenerated into a chaotic collection of bickering warlords, diplomats and analysts say.

As Washington and Moscow move closer to a political settlement of the war, diplomatic sources say, many Afghans have launched an anti-West campaign to counter what they see as a US attempt to sidestep the fundamentalists.

"With a regularity that overwhelms the unloading crews, trains are trundling grain to Afghanistan in the first UN operations based in the Soviet Union."

Soviet officials stunned an international meeting in 1988 by offering 400 million roubles (about \$640 million) for a UN programme with Soviet borderers to supply food and relief materials to northern Afghanistan.

The programme has been fraught with difficulties, UN and Soviet officials admit. But they call it a success and a good start toward Moscow's involvement in humanitarian aid elsewhere.

"You saw the summit agreement on Ethiopia," prompted by a Stipka, a Foreign Ministry expert in Moscow, expressing enthusiasm for the new Soviet role in United Nations and international relief.

Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush agreed on September 1989 to help starving Ethiopians with American food and Soviet transport.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Kuwaiti imports from GCC states valued at KD18.5m Exports amount to KD7.8m

THE value of Kuwaiti exports to GCC countries during the month of May 1990 amounted to about KD7.8 million while imports from these countries during the same period amounted to about KD18.5, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the customs department.

The bulletin added that the Kuwaiti exports consist of agricultural and livestock products in addition to industrial output and natural resources. During the

same period Kuwait's imports from Saudi Arabia amounted to about KD8 million in addition to about KD7.4 million worth of goods from United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Transit trade

Meanwhile, the bulletin showed that Kuwaiti exports to UAE and Bahrain amounted KD1.9 million and KD711,296 respectively. It added that Kuwait's imports from Bahrain had amounted to

about KD1.6 million, which represented goods of Bahraini origin, in addition to about KD888,330 goods of foreign origin.

During the same period Kuwait imported from Qatar some consumer goods estimated at KD 1 million while Kuwaiti exports to this country during the same period amounted to about KD530,000.

For Oman, Kuwaiti exports during the said period amounted to about KD320,000 while Omani exports to

Kuwait amounted to about KD224,000.

On the other hand another statistical bulletin on the transit movement between Kuwait and the other GCC countries clarified that the volume of this kind of trade amounted to about 191,794 tons with the total value of about KD18.3 million, while, the transit trade from Kuwait to the member states amounted to about 33,000 tons with a total value of about KD 7.8 millions.

Saudi-Iran rift

Alawi expects reconciliation next year

ABU DHABI, June 27, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia and Iran were continuing to meet and could agree to end their two-year break in relations next year, Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said.

"Contacts between the two countries have achieved tangible results, but not about everything," Youssef Bin Alawi Abdullah was quoted by the United Arab Emirates News-paper Al-Khaleej as saying.

"But next year, at the latest, the picture will be different," he told the newspaper.

Riyadh cut ties with Tehran in 1988 following an anti-Western riot in Makkah in 1987 when 400 people, mainly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces.

Saudi Arabia, long at odds with Iran over its fundamentalist Islamic policies, is sending 40 C-130 transport planes loaded with earthquake relief aid to Tehran.

King Fahd ordered the airlift after sending a rare message on Saturday to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressing condolences for the quake victims.

Oman has played a major role in mediating between the two sides, and in efforts to reach a final peace between former belligerents Iran and Iraq, which agreed a ceasefire in 1988.

Alawi, who has visited Iran several times, said that Iran and Iraq had narrowed their differences.

Last month, Rafsanjani said he looked forward to better ties with Saudi Arabia, and also said he welcomed Iraqi peace moves.

Bahrain paper urges Arab sanctions against US

BAHRAIN, June 27, (Reuters): A Bahraini paper yesterday supported a call by a Saudi Arabian Prince for Arab economic sanctions against the United States if it did not reverse a decision to suspend talks with PLO.

"We support Prince Turki Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud's bold call and we urge (Arabs) to draw plans to boycott America and implement them," the daily, Akhbar Al-Khaleej, said in an editorial.

Prince Turki, a brother of Saudi Monarch King Fahd, said in Orlando, Florida, on June 24 that his country would impose economic sanctions if Washington did not resume talks with the PLO.

"If the American administration does not hurry up and correct this, I would call on Arab nations to do something like this," he said.

The paper said an Arab boycott against Washington would be a natural response as long as it remained biased toward Israel.

US President George Bush ordered the suspension of talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation after it failed to condemn a foiled Palestinian seaborne attack on Israel on May 30.

Medicine market

PARTICIPANTS at the third Arab Union for Medicines and Medical Requirements Manufacturers Symposium called for the establishment of a joint Arab medicine market and increase the rate of manufactured medicine in Arab markets from 34 to 60 per cent before the end of 2000.

During the final session of the symposium participants urged Arab countries to declare the holding of a joint medicine market as soon as possible.

They also called upon Arab health ministers to implement decisions issued by their council meetings regarding the registration of medicines in addition to issuing necessary directives for this purpose in order to facilitate a better flow of medicine through out the Arab world.

Representatives from medicine factories at Arab states participated in the symposium which lasted three days.



Hajji visits Al Seyassah

DIRECTOR General Traffic Department, Brig Abdul Hameed Al Hajji visited Dar Al Seyassah on Tuesday where he was received by the editor-in-chief of Arab Times/Seyassah, Ahmad Al Jarallah, the deputy editor-in-chief Sulaiman Al Jarallah and the Arab Times managing editor Mahal Al Jarallah. Brig Hajji was accompanied by director of the public relations at the traffic department, Lt Col Mustafa Juma and head of the press section at the department, Maj Adal Al Ibrahim.

During the meeting Brig Hajji hailed the efforts

exerted by Dar Al Seyassah publications at various security and traffic levels. Hajji stressed that future plans at the traffic department are mainly directed at reducing traffic accidents, ensuring traffic flow and others. Hajji also presented memorial shields and certificates of appreciation to Ahmad Al Jarallah, Sulaiman Al Jarallah and a number of editors. Pictura (above) shows Hajji with Ahmad and Sulaiman Jarallah and (below) Hajji presenting a certificate of appreciation to Ahmad Al Jarallah.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier receives: HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmed who asked permission to leave the country and Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houli.

Later on, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister received the governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Ahmed Al Hmoud Al Jaber. (Kuna)

Duaj appointed: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Fahd Al Hasawi has appointed Abdul Rahman Al Duaj as chief engineer at the municipality.

Duaj, who held the post of deputy chief engineer since 1984, joined Kuwait Municipality in 1971. (Kuna)

Envoy received: Chairman of Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Duaj Al Sabah received at his office today the Ambassador of Yugoslavia Federal Socialist Republic to Kuwait Dr Hassan Darwish.

The talks between Sheikh Ibrahim and the Yugoslavian envoy dealt with bilateral relations between Kuwait and Yugoslavia in the agriculture field.

During the meeting the envoy extended an invitation to Kuwait to take part in the agricultural fair scheduled to take place in Yugoslavia. Sheikh Ibrahim thanked the ambassador for the invitation and praised the level of the Yugoslavian Agricultural Fair which occupies a distinguished position among the agricultural affairs concerned throughout the world.

Subsidy allocation: Money allocated during the month of May, 1990 to subsidise consumer goods included in the

ration card amounted to KD1,168,854 according to statistical report issued recently by the supply department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The report also added that the ministry had issued about 702 new ration cards covering 3703 persons.

It further said that about 4.25 tons of gold were stamped during the same month in addition to about 31 kilograms of silver and 73 sets of gems.

About 93 commercial infringements were reported during the same month.

Meanwhile, statistics said that the ministry had given the necessary licences for arranging a draw to be conducted by several companies in addition to about 13 permissions to hold sales.

GCC aviation meeting: The implementation committee for GCC Civil Aviation College concluded its 24th meeting yesterday evening. The meeting was attended by representatives from the four member states Qatar, UAE, Oman and Bahrain.

The Dean of the Civil Aviation College, Omer Issa said that the committee has studied a number of issues connected with college activities and work during the past period in addition to its future plans.

He added that the committee has reached a number of decisions aimed at developing the college. Some decisions included appointing the college administration to conduct a feasibility study on admission to students from non-member states into the college and organising training courses for non-professional groups.

The meeting also included an exchange of opinions on the project of training pilots in addition to discussing a number of technical and administrative matters.

Polio

Oman declares itself free

MUSCAT, June 27, (AP): Oman declared itself free of polio yesterday, two years after an outbreak that crippled 100 children.

"We have been clear more than a year, there has not been one reported case of polio since the control of the outbreak,"

Prof M.S. El Bualy, director-general of curative services at the Ministry of Health told the Associated Press.

"A programme of more frequent immunisation and intensive surveillance appears to have contained the disease," he said.

US scientists from the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia were called in to investigate the situation in the summer of 1988 after the sudden outbreak of polio cases in young children in remote villages in the northern interior.

The office of the World Health Organisation's eastern Mediterranean region was also alerted as military and police medical services assessed the extent of the outbreak.

"We were particularly disturbed to find children under three months were infected," El Bualy said.

"Immediate action was to start polio dosing at birth, offer a booster dose to all children under five in the country, and call in investigators from Atlanta."

He said that the Atlanta team studies showed that a virus from outside the country was responsible for the outbreak.

"One hundred children were paralysed as a result because their antibody levels were low," he said.

El Bualy referred to a "paradox" because at that time Oman's child immunisation campaign had covered more than 80 per cent of all children.

"We can only believe that in the few that were missed, a pool of susceptibles was created, all of them waiting to be infected," he said.

Medical teams were still monitoring the stricken villages closely under new nation-wide surveillance procedures instigated since the outbreak, El Bualy added.

Following the Atlanta team's report, vaccination frequency had been increased, he said. In addition to doses at birth, and at three, five and seven months old, immunisation was advised at six weeks.

Licence lending a lucrative enterprise

Nationals prefer fixed incomes

THE concept of renting commercial licences originated with the dependence upon expatriates' commercial initiatives to manage commercial enterprises during the past few decades.

With the obvious success of the business acumen of expatriates in the post-boom of the oil era, the two-way benefits accruing to Kuwaiti commercial licence holders and expatriate lessors, this method of renting out commercial licences has become "an acceptable and lucrative enterprise in itself."

Merchants indicated that a specific group of citizens have become highly dependent on renting commercial licences as it forms an additional source of income. They said that most individuals in this group belong to the limited income group.

Conversely, a section of merchants said that essentially licence owners are prone to risks in the eventuality that the lessor violates any sections of the commercial law. A group of merchants pointed out that licence owners should thoroughly scrutinise any documents they sign with the licence users to avoid malpractices.

Another set of merchants said that most licence owners do not have the experience needed to enter any form of trade and consequently prefer to rent their licences. They added that such a "modus operandi" will not have any side effects if proper restrictions are instituted to safeguard interests of both parties involved.

Problems

Merchants spoke about the United Arab Emirates system which permits all individuals to practice any commercial activity with some conditions and restrictions. They said that applying the same system in Kuwait will

create many problems in the local market. This will encourage expatriates to enter professions which Kuwaitis cannot engage in, due to the lack of experience. Consequently, this will have negative effect on the government's concern to bring about an equation in the population imbalance.

They pointed out that the rise in the number of educated nationals has automatically led to lesser number of rented licences. Many Kuwaiti youths are now capable of managing their own commercial businesses without the assistance of expatriates. This trend should be encouraged by the government and in this context, the application of the "free-system of commerce" as practised in the UAE will not be conducive to the Kuwaiti scenario. They reiterated that the large number of rented licences to expatriates reflects the population structure in the country.

Merchants stated that many professional and commercial practices in Kuwait such as the spare parts business has been adopted by a specific group of expatriates who have benefited the local market with their experience.

One of the merchants pointed out that it is necessary for licence owners to rent their licences because they are not well experienced in that particular field. He added that this will create problems for licence owners.

Another merchant, Ghanem Hilal indicated that renting commercial licences is organised on a yearly basis between both sides. He pointed out that the whole country follows the same system.

Another section of market experts stressed that there is no specific style of calculating profit

percentage between licence owners and users. They added most licence users pay an annual fixed rent to the owner of the licence. They believe that some licence users tend to adopt the feeling that they entirely own their businesses due to the fact that licence owners do not invest in the business.

A section of merchants pointed out that a big number of Kuwaiti government employees who are not permitted to open any form of commercial business have rented licences to work in that trade during the afternoons. Others stressed that Kuwaiti government employees owning companies are practicing trade through commercial licences owned by their wives or mothers. Employees who have failed to obtain commercial licences can obtain licences under the name of their wives.

Activity

Fees for renting a licence is according to the size of activity. Some experts stated that contracting and general trade licence rentals may reach to several thousand dinars while it will not exceed KD200 in some simple trades.

A number of licence users stated that they rented their licences on an annual basis adding that if it wasn't for them the market would have been inactive. They pointed out that some huge shops operate under the cover of sponsors. Some expatriates may rent licences to open their own business as a precaution in case they lose their original jobs.

On the other hand, licence owners stated that they prefer having a fixed source of income over entering into risks of business. They added that life has become more expensive and that their monthly salaries were insufficient.



Soviet envoy received

Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry, Maj.-Gen. Youssef Badar Al Khorafi received at his office yesterday the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, Cordial talks were exchanged.

Paaet to accept more than 4,000 pupils in first semester

DEAN of Students and Training Affairs at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, (Paaet) Hesham Al Mutawa said that the authority will accept more than 4,000 students during the first semester, who will be distributed among various colleges and centres.

He added that this includes general secondary graduates. In an interview with a local daily, he indicated that the authority will start receiving applications for admission from July 7 to 25 next. Applications will be received at the Admissions Co-ordination Office at the Commercial Studies College for boys in Hawalli located opposite to the Qadisiya Sports Club from 4-8 pm.

He pointed out that expatriate students who have secured above 90 per cent will be accepted by the authority.

He added that the authority will receive applications from female expatriate students who obtained a minimum of 85 per cent in their general secondary exams to the Nursing College. He said that accepting applicants papers does not necessarily mean admission to the authority. He stressed that all applicants for the nursing section at the authority will have to go through an interview for final acceptance.

Results

He pointed out that the authority will declare admission results for the first stage which include Kuwaitis on Wednesday, August 22, 1990. On the other hand, acceptance results for the second stage which includes Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti students will be announced Tuesday, Sept 11, 1990.

Director of the Admissions Office at the authority, Ahmad Al

Hussaini said that acceptance rates for this academic year will be similar to those of last year.

Regarding conditions of acceptance inside authority colleges, he added that applicants should be Kuwaitis and Arab expatriates. He indicated that the authority will only accept 15 per cent expatriates from the total number of students. He added that admission tests for student who applied for admission at specific colleges will be held from July 31 to August 8, 1990. He stressed that student applicants should provide the highest number of academic interests in their applications in order to obtain better opportunities for acceptance.

Pass rates

Meanwhile, statistics published by the Organising and Control Committee for the General Secondary Certificates of the science section indicate a significant advance in the level of students achievements at all educational areas.

The general pass percentage in Ahmadi Educational Area registered 63.3 per cent, Jahra 65.2, Hawalli 87.3, the Capital 80.7 and Farwaniya 74.9 per cent. At government schools it registered 84 per cent.

However, statistics indicated a low level of Kuwaiti students amounted to 38.8 per cent as compared to 79.9 per cent for their non-Kuwaiti counterparts.

The low percentage among Kuwaitis, is attributed to the results of the elderly on the general result. Girls schools took the highest pass rates and statistics indicated that six government schools obtained 100 per cent pass rates.

From the courts

Fathers of juvenile thieves sign behaviour pledge

THE minors Court ruled in a verdict that the fathers of two minor thieves pledge to straighten their behaviour and carefully look after their children. The court was told that the two boys, each aged about 13 years, were apprehended and accused of carrying out a

number of car thefts. During interrogations, the boys confessed carrying out the thefts and particularly a certain theft in which KD 340 was stolen from a parked car. In the court however, they denied the charges and claimed they were forced to confess by the police who

beat them. The criminal evidences department said in its report that the fingerprints found in the car resemble those of one of the two boys. For that the court, considering their young ages, asked their fathers to sign a pledge promising to look after them better.

One month, deportation for thief: The criminal court sentenced a man to one month imprisonment to be followed with deportation from Kuwait for entering a diwaniya and stealing money. The court was told

that the man noticed that diwanias are always kept open and realising there was no one inside, entered the diwaniya with the aim to steal. But the owner of the diwaniya caught him. At the police station the accused said he did not steal anything but the brother of the owner

informed the police that his small bag containing money was missing. The court said that entering the house only is not a crime but entering the house with the intention to carry out a crime is punishable by law.

US being made aware of lost Arab business

Efforts to offset pro-Israel lobby

WASHINGTON, June 27, (Kuna): The new director of the US-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Sherif Sedki, is in the Arab Gulf this week hoping to help reverse serious declines in business due largely to heavy lobbying by partisans of Israel.

The pro-Israel lobbying (and Sedki's efforts to offset it) come at a time of mounting disincentives for American businessmen.

Sedki and fellow US-Arab chamber official and trade expert Jean Abinader are now in Kuwait for a week's visit that also takes them to Bahrain.

Kuwait Chamber of Commerce executives Salah Marzouk and Majid Jamaladin are Sedki and Abinader's official hosts in Kuwait and will help them renew old ties or make new ones, according to Sedki.

The Arab-American pair also are meeting high-ranking Kuwaiti government officials, US Embassy trade experts and others active in formulating and promoting bilateral trade, Sedki added.

As Sedki explained it to Kuna, "The purpose of the trip was to establish communication" with Arab counterparts in the trade sphere, and "to see how our

chamber can better serve and help promote trade between the... countries."

Sedki pointing to a Kuwaiti trade exhibit, said "we've had experience in the past where we can use (such) exhibits to enhance business and trade climate by setting up conferences where people can meet each other."

Among other things, Sedki and other Arab trade experts said the Kuwaiti exhibit and a very popular show on Saudi Arabia several months ago attracted delegations of executives from various American states.

The Saudi exhibit travelled all over the US, and was hailed as a major event in promoting understanding by Americans of the Arab role in history, civilisation and commerce.

This role, as Arab-American analysts have stressed, has been little explored by the US educational system.

Sedki, newly appointed to head the two-year old US-Arab Chamber, is a lawyer by profession and said he took the post on a voluntary basis.

A key element likely to be pursued in such Arab-American delegations to the

region as Sedki's, a Gulf area specialist who spoke to Kuna on background speculated, was, "there is an opportunity to have a political role; and that I don't think it's well understood (by Americans generally) what the impact of Arab trade is on the US on the local level."

This source said he and others were involved in putting together a special computer database documenting the important and long-term link between trade and the US economy at large.

He said not only American businessmen but American politicians as well would become aware through such services of lost business opportunities.

They would be informed that, "while you're standing there bashing the Arabs and writing blank checks to the Israelis, Mr. Congressman, we can now tell you that there are 'X' jobs at stake in your district and we are not going to hesitate to let your constituents know this."

Others have suggested in tandem informing union leaders in key defence industry states like California that mass layoffs and bankruptcies often result largely from the killing of large Arab arms sales due to

heavy-handed pressures on Congress by the Israeli lobby.

One proposed Saudi aircraft sale alone, lost to Great Britain last year after Israeli pressure, reportedly could have meant thousands of jobs to the private sector and billions of dollars in cash for states now suffering economic downturns.

Trade in the past five years has declined over 20 per cent, Sedki said, broadly attributing the impact of Israel's lobby for these drops.

Another key factor that acts as a disincentive, he said, echoing complaints of many Arab-American spokesmen, is the US anti-Arab boycott laws.

Asian and European firms do not operate under such constraints, Sedki said, recalling cases he has had of lawyers harassed by US government bureaucrats for even being suspected — erroneously in some cases — of complying with the Damascus-based boycott office.

Sedki spoke as well of "hoops" the American firms had to jump through to do almost any kind of business in the Arab world.

"And unfortunately it's small to medium sized businesses that don't have

the resources, and the experience to comply with the multitude of American laws."

Heritage

The upshot is the Americans' frustration at time-consuming laws, that potential billions of dollars in combined earnings that could benefit the US and the Arab world are lost, the Arab-American Chamber of Commerce chief pointed out.

Sedki said, in any case, "the importance of trade as a political device within the United States is something people should know about," adding, "though, that as a tax-exempt organisation the Arab-American Chamber does no lobbying per se."

On the positive side of the trade ledger, Sedki emphasised, was the growing pride in heritage exhibited in recent years by Americans of Arab ancestry.

"All the Arab-American groups — the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), Arab American Institute (AAI), American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) have everybody feel a lot more comfortable with their ethnicity," Sedki stated.

He wanted to clarify that his organisation was not the Washington branch of the

now-defunct New York-based US-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

That organisation existed for many years, and Sedki explained that his new unit was meant to "replace the New York operation and consolidate all the chambers (including one in Chicago and another in San Francisco) under one fraternal roof."

There are now about 800 members of the "umbrella group" he chairs, many old-timers having been absorbed from the defunct "chamber," Sedki told Kuna in an interview.

Dialogue

Asked to assess the impact on trade of the Bush administration's recent halt in the US-PLO dialogue, Sedki said, "I guess to the extent that one believes that trade is influenced by the overall quality of the (US-Arab) relationship, then presumably trade will suffer."

"Particularly, where there are politically sensitive trade issues like military infrastructure; where there are often political overtones to the trade then naturally there are likely to be repercussions."

High school graduates honoured

KUWAIT, June 27, (Kuna): HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier received Minister of Education Abdullah Al Ghanaim who introduced, them to a number of high school graduates, who received outstanding grades this year.

The education minister thanked the Amir and the Crown Prince, for honouring the students, noting that such a move shows the country's determination to give more attention to education and students.

Later on, the Amir awarded the talented students with medals and certificates and encouraged them to continue their university studies.

The meeting was attended by Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodary, and other education officials.

Sheikh Saad delivered a speech at the meeting in which he congratulated the students for their success and the serious efforts they exerted during the school year.

He affirmed that the minister of education and ranking ministry officials are working day and night to upgrade the standard of education in Kuwait.

Sheikh Saad hoped that this policy be followed by all ministry officials, school masters and supervisors so as to realise aspirations and to work for the interests of our sons and daughters so that they occupy in the near future the leading posts.

Dr Ghunaim on his part delivered a speech in which he thanked the Crown Prince for this meeting and for the wise instructions he gave.

Student Reem Ghazi Saud Al Fehail, from Al Asmaa Binti Faleh School thanked Sheikh Saad for what has been extended and what is being offered for the future generation.

Sheikh Saad then awarded the talented students with gifts and hoped them all success and continued progress.

71,000 tons of medicine for quake-hit Iran

THE Central Blood Bank has reportedly dispatched 450 bags of blood and 3,000 plasma units on board a military aircraft loaded with pharmaceuticals and medical supplies for the victims of earthquake-stricken areas in northern Iran, where tens of thousands have been killed and hundreds of thousands rendered homeless.

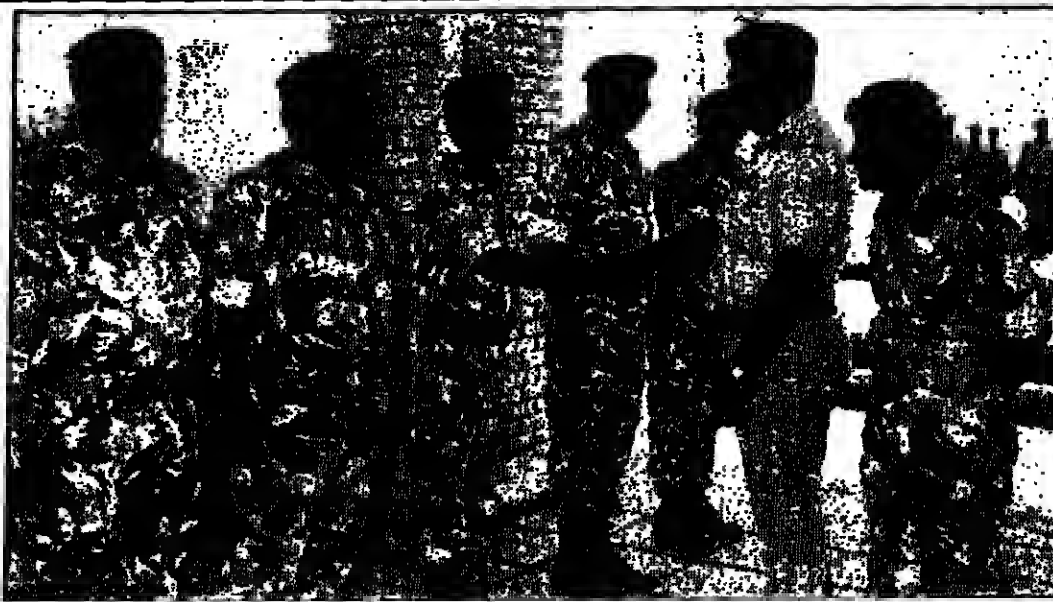
A local daily has said that 71,000 tons of pharmaceuticals and other medical necessities have so far been sent as relief supplies to the calamity-stricken area, which include antibiotics, intravenous solutions and all other pharmaceuticals needed.

The medical delegation that flew to Iran consisted of 14 specialised doctors of various medical disciplines headed by the chief surgical adviser at Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital, Dr Abdullah Issa Behbehani.

Kuwaiti envoy

DHAKA, June 27, (Kuna): President of Bangladesh Hussain Mohammed Ershad received today afternoon the Kuwaiti Ambassador here, Mohammed Ebraheem Al Najran.

During the meeting they discussed issues of bilateral interest.



Brigade visit

The deputy chief of staff of Kuwait Army, Maj. Gen. Jaber Khaled Al Sabah visited the 15th Armoured Brigade recently. He was received by the commander of the land forces, Col. Abdul Aziz Al Barghash, the commander of the brigade Col. Mohammad Al Harbi and a number of senior officers.

Summer exodus

Kuwait Airways Corp to operate 600 extra flights

ACCORDING to statistics carried out by the Ministry of Planning, half of Kuwait's population leave the country during summer. Generally speaking, an exodus of population at any given time has a strong impact on the economy and society as large sums of money is spent outside the country without any returns.

A local daily interviewed the general director of Kuwait Airways Corporation, Ahmad Faisal Al Zabin who pointed out that Kuwait Airways will operate more than 600 extra flights in the current summer season. Extra flights are a pressing necessity in "high-demand sectors," he said.

He pointed out that fares have not been increased in the Kuwait market during the past years and prices are cheaper than in other neighbouring countries.

Regarding Kuwait Airways

preparations for this season, Zabin stated that due to passenger rush during the summer season KAC will operate many additional flights. Most of the additional flights will be operated on the Cairo route, followed by Istanbul, Damascus and finally London.

He added that KAC brought back two airbuses which were rented out to cover passenger demands.

He indicated that other preparations included reinforcement of all reservation offices inside and outside Kuwait. Offices were reinforced with a larger staff to facilitate passenger reservations.

With respect to the reservations problem, he stated overbookings are the cause, but are resorted to by the airlines to make-up for a "no-show" passengers. He said that the system is totally approved by IATA and is

implemented by all airlines. He added that many travellers fail to arrive at departure time which inflicts huge losses. He stressed that KAC does not adopt the surplus reservation policy unless there is a pressing need.

He indicated that the travellers card system is still under study by the corporation adding that in order to implement the system, measures have to be taken to cover the system's technical and computer requirements.

A committee was formed by Kuwait and Egypt airlines to study the requirements of the system. He indicated that the corporation will discontinue the use of Boeing 747 and will be replaced by Airbuses which have been rented to Egypt Air.

He pointed out that renting Kuwait Airways planes to other countries came as a solution to the problem of surplus in the corporation's fleet.

Freight rates revised

THE chairman of the Economic Reactivation Follow-up Committee and Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah has said that two ministerial decisions have of late been issued to revise the rates of loading and unloading freight to 40 per cent instead of 25 per cent. This decision falls within the framework of efforts exerted to activate the operation of Kuwaiti ports.

He told a local daily that the ministerial decision revises the free demurrage period for transit goods, depending on the type of goods to become 30 instead of 10 days, and 15 instead of four.

He also said that another ministerial decision was adopted by the minister of finance facilitating customs procedures as of May 1, which also introduced revisions on the freight lists and set up new system for the operation of customs stores.

He said that the charges and duties collected by Kuwaiti ports from the owners of goods and ship agents come second in the level of low value following the ports of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Pager system to be expanded

BOARD director of the Mobile Telephone Company, Abdullah Al Sabaj said that the company is currently working towards selecting and evaluating several offers for the expansion of the "pager system." The new expanded system will introduce 50,000 units during the next year and will have a maximum capacity of 100,000 units during the next five years.

Interviewed by a local daily, Sabaj indicated that the pager system is considered a new service which was presented by the company two years ago. Demand was limited at the beginning but has increased considerably recently. The company has distributed ten thousand pagers in addition to receiving more than 4,000 applications which will be covered during the last quarter of this year.

He stated that when the company undertakes modernising any service, more concerns are accorded to agreeing with international equipment in this field. He pointed out that the use of the pager system in Kuwait is equivalent to four times the use of the same system in European countries.

Sabaj indicated that the company is currently looking for modifications to the system which will enable users to obtain callers numbers. He indicated that such modifications will be introduced in the system next January. He stated that the new facility will prevent harassment from some callers and aims at unifying the system with GCC states, applied pager systems.

He stressed that the company is directly contacting similar GCC companies to achieve full co-operation in the field. A special meeting was held last week in this regard in order to select a unified system for mobile telephones system.

Regarding the pressing problem of lines pressure suffered by subscribers, Sabaj stressed that the company intends to take steps towards improving this section of the service. He stated that such steps include the formation of a new division to be completed next March. The new division is expected to resolve the problem and another expansion to the system will also be carried out within a month.

He explained that high pressure times differ from one time to another. He pointed out that more pressure is applied on the system usually during the final week each month due to the fact that many youths consume the remaining free time facility.

468 new TB cases discovered in 1989

ACCORDING to a survey study on tuberculosis in Kuwait, 468 new cases were discovered during 1989.

A local daily quoted figures and results reached by the study which showed that rate of developing TB among residents in Kuwait reached 24.85 per cent per 100,000, whereas the number of new cases of all types of TB discovered in 1988 was 480 at the rate of 24.51 per cent.

The study revealed that Kuwaitis suffer from TB at the rate of 11.31 per cent per 1,000, in contrast to previous percentage recorded in 1965 which was 273 per cent per 100,000 people, which shows a gradual decrease since then.

The study revealed that the number of new cases among stateless residents had increased from 169 in 1965 to 36 cases only as recorded last year, stressing that patients with TB mainly resided in Jahra, Sulaibikhat, Farwaniya and Fahahel.

The study stressed that the majority of patients are young people coming to Kuwait for work.

Power and water rates to stay the same

KUWAIT, June 27, (Kuna): Minister of Electricity and Water Hazoud Abdullah Al Rqobah said today that the government has no intention of increasing the prices of electricity and water on citizens, but on the contrary will continue supporting these utilities.

In an interview published in latest edition of Kuwait magazine, published by the Ministry of Information Rqobah said that the government had taken necessary precautions to avoid what happened in December 1988 and April of 1989, when the electricity went off.

Concerning the project of Sbat Al Arab, and drawing its water to Kuwait, the electricity official said that the ministry had just ended a study evaluating the technical tenders and is studying financial tenders, and in accordance to these studies a chancellor will be chosen to design and supervise the work fulfillment of this project.

He added that the ministry had agreed with a local company to implement a technical survey and study the soil.

Asked about the linking Kuwait with Iraq in electricity to provide the southern parts of Iraq with electricity, Rqobah said that this project had exceeded a long path, since an agreement had already been signed between the two countries in March 1989.

Islamic charity committee

KUWAIT, June 27, (Kuna): The Indian Continent Committee, an affiliate of the Revival of the Islamic Heritage Society, has accomplished 600 Islamic charity projects so far in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives.

The director of mosques construction and Islamic projects at the society Tarek Al Issa told Kuna today that the committee has built 350 mosques, 30 schools, 3 hospitals and dug 500 wells.

The society has offered 850 sheep within its project of "Sacrifice sheep outside Kuwait" to Muslims in India, Pakistan and other Islamic countries.

On the current projects of the society he said that the committee is building five mosques in Kerala state in India.

He pointed out that most of the support and funds come from Kuwaitis and expressed the Indian subcontinent Muslim community's gratitude to the people of Kuwait for their support.

Saudi Arabia spends millions on haj season

Health care available for all

By Hussein Al Tantawi

SAUDI Communications Minister Hussein Mansouri has said that relevant government authorities have at directives from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz executed a large integrated network of roads, bridges and tunnels both inside the holy town of Makkah and the area of the sacred locations, which is intended to facilitate access by hajjis and provide them with means of comfort and safety.

He told Seyassah that construction works are still in progress to complete the internal ring road in Makkah, adding that the length of this road and all its tunnels, ramps, and inter-sections are about 25 kilometres.

He pointed out that the future plans for communication projects in hajj area includes a number of works which aims at developing the areas as a whole, and interconnect its component parts, which includes the completion of stage four of the Makkah ring road and related inter-sections, a project with a total cost of over Saudi riyals 140 million.

Mansouri added that future projects also include the planning and organisation of the Arafat area which aims at the construction of pedestrian arcades to protect them from sunstrokes, the completion of the ring road around Arafat area

and the construction of car parks at a total cost of Saudi riyals 234 million.

He pointed out that the proposed inter-Gulf railway network receives due attention from the concerned official authorities in the GCC countries, and that two international consultants have already been assigned to undertake the necessary pre-development study for this project for submission to the council of GCC communications minister, as the project is still receiving deep co-ordinated consideration.

He said that the majority of GCC countries are currently interlinked by an asphalted road network, of which some are not quite up to the desired standard capacity-wise and others do not serve the overland linkage purposes.

He added that therefore the council of GCC communications ministers has taken a decision to improve and expand these roads as well as optimise their performance and modify the routing of others and to perform all necessary studies needed for this target.

He said that the Saudi kingdom has a coast line on the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf stretching over 1,500 miles, and the government has provided modern ports and harbours all interlinked with a road network to ensure easy transport of

goods, equipment and people, stressing that the marine transport sector has over the past years been the scene of great progress due to the consistent support of Saudi officials.

He said that the GCC, since its establishment, has been incessantly working for stepping up co-operation and integration between its members, in emphasis of the major existing common factors of unity: religion, language, history, mutual interest and fate.

Aspirations

He added that all achievements so far attained by the GCC have come to embody the aspirations of the leaders and people of the members countries in fortifying the bases of security, stability and to ensure greater luxury and progress as well as brotherly cohesion between these countries.

Meanwhile, Minister of Public Health in the Saudi kingdom Faisal Al Hajilan has said that the ministry has prepared a comprehensive plan to provide hajjis with all needed health services during the present season, mobilising for this purpose more than 10,000 medical, technical and professional people, besides the plans developed for the same purpose by the Saudi Red Crescent Society, faculties of medicine and health institutes where work is progressing on a 24-hour basis.

Sheep pour in for sacrifice

RIYADH, June 27, (AP): Shiploads of sheep from New Zealand are arriving at Saudi Arabia's ports in preparation for the hajj ritual animal sacrifice next week, a New Zealand embassy spokesman said today.

New Zealand is sending 500,000 sheep to Saudi Arabia through Al Mukairish and Sons, the Saudi company contracted by the Islamic Development Bank to purchase sheep specifically for the hajj.

The IDB-purchased sheep will be slaughtered by proxy on behalf of pilgrims who choose that method. Many prefer to make the sacrifice themselves.

The embassy spokesman, who is not named in line with regulations, said that another 400,000 sheep are coming from New Zealand outside of the IDB contract.

He said the shiploads would continue through to Monday, the day when an estimated 2 million Muslims gathered for the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrines at Makkah and Madina culminate the hajj rites by slaughtering animals in commemoration of Prophet Abraham's offering of his son to god. It marks the start of the three-day Eid Al Adha or feast of sacrifice.

Other countries providing the kingdom with live animals include Turkey and Somalia. Aside from sheep, the hajjis or pilgrims can sacrifice goats and camels.

Australia, which normally exports three million sheep a year to Saudi Arabia, is not directly involved with the hajj since the ritual sacrifice requires young ram lambs with undipped tails.

Australian sheep, raised

primarily for wool and not for meat, are generally not suitable for hajj because of their age. New Zealand sheep are raised for meat.

Sheep trade between Saudi Arabia and Australia is currently suffering due to several rejections of Australian sheep at Saudi ports. Ten shipments carrying a total of 485,000 sheep have been rejected since July 1989, with the Saudis citing health concerns.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I DON'T know whether war is an interlude during peace, or peace an interlude during war — Georges Clemenceau, French statesman (1841-1929).

Allaying Soviet fears German army to have limit

BRUSSELS. (Reuters): Nato, abandoning its earlier confidence that Moscow would give way, has started working flat out to allay Soviet objections to a united Germany being in the Western alliance.

The latest proposal to this end is a West German one suggesting that limits be agreed soon at conventional arms talks in Vienna on a united Germany's armed strength.

This is something Moscow has repeatedly said it wants and Bonn, backed by France, is also pushing its Western allies to give financial aid to the crippled Soviet economy.

Calming

In a future move aimed at calming Soviet fears, West Germany wants Nato to agree to a non-aggression pact of some kind with its cold war enemies — the countries of the now-crumbling Warsaw Pact.

Just a few weeks ago, Nato officials were confidently predicting Moscow would give in and that German unification, the key element of any new European order, could be completed quickly. What has brought the change of heart?

"There is a very real fear that the Soviet Union could hold out for a long time and that German unification would become messy," said one Nato diplomat.

The two German states are already on the threshold of unification and even the Soviet Union says it cannot stop the process. From next Sunday, they become one state in economic and monetary terms and Bonn wants all-German elections in December.

But the concern at Nato is that the security aspects of German unification, in which Moscow has a clear say, could lag behind domestic developments and that a united Germany would not have resolved the issue of which alliance it should join.

Security

Moscow, citing security concerns and still bitter memories of more than 20 million Soviet dead in World War II, has stoutly resisted the idea of Nato membership for Germany at the so-called "Two-Plus-Four" talks.

These group the two Germanys with the four Allied powers — the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain — in discussions on security aspects of German unification.

At the last "Two-plus-Four" meeting in East Berlin last week, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze presented a plan which suggested limited German forces should be limited to between 200,000 and 250,000 men and that there should be a phased withdrawal of foreign forces from Germany.

The plan was immediately rejected by the West, which said it contradicted a fundamental principle that a united Germany should be a sovereign state.

The Western allies have also said that German troop limits can be discussed only at the Vienna talks and only if Germany is not singled out for special treatment.

Forces

The latest idea being considered at the 16-nation alliance's Brussels headquarters, outlined by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher last Saturday, would appear to sidestep those problems neatly while taking Soviet concerns into account.

Armed forces of a united Germany would be limited, but so would other Allied forces, according to the scheme.

But the plan, one of several being considered, could also significantly complicate the current Vienna talks on cutting Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), which so far envisage reductions only in US and Soviet troop levels.

The alliance has already committed itself to further talks on troop cuts after an initial CFE treaty, which will reduce Soviet and US troop levels to 195,000 on each side in Central Europe and scrap thousands of pieces of heavy equipment.

But Genscher says agreement on further cuts should not be left until fresh talks, but reached in the current round.

Reaching a conventional arms treaty this year between Nato and the Warsaw Pact is crucial because the West has made it a precondition for holding a landmark summit of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Moscow badly wants that conference to go ahead, because it sees the CSCE as the foundation of a new European order and as a way of involving the Soviet Union.



Shevardnadze

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

Transition causes upheavals

East bloc reforms could falter

WASHINGTON: After the joys and jubilation of having got rid of the communist yoke in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the pains and privations of the transition to a market economy have set in and are causing deep inner upheavals. The severity of these upheavals could have all sorts of unexpected political repercussions and they are beginning to worry the Bush administration. To live with zero growth, high inflation and mass unemployment will test the patience and endurance of Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Romanians, Bulgarians, Yugoslavs and Soviets. It could create a backlash that could kill the seeds of democracy, undermine the new reform governments and turn people against capitalist goals.

The experts agree that what they call the "big bang" of drastic reforms is absolutely necessary to cut down the duration of this painful transition and to ensure the success of the economic reforms. It involves freeing prices from state control, creating a private banking system and financial services, introducing private property rights and company laws, breaking up state monopolies and establishing a proper social security system that includes unemployment benefits, medical insurance and, of course, the privatization of industry.

Serious

One of the serious problems is that most of the economists involved in guiding the transition are more familiar with capitalist goals than how to reach them. As Gorbachev pointed out here, such fundamental changes in so many countries have never before been attempted in history. Even such simple aspects of reform as creating competition among companies is a problem hard to teach and to accomplish among people, who all their lives, have been used to not having to worry about competition or about quality control and competitive pricing.

Along the decision to relax central control created a chaotic situation with a great number of monopolies suddenly finding themselves on their own, cutting prices, reducing production and facing the problems of having to improve the quality of their products. People who had never been in a position to take managerial decisions saw themselves suddenly confronted by them. Of course, they found it difficult to assume responsibility for running an enterprise. Perhaps the change in attitudes among workers and managers may prove to be the most difficult to achieve and take years. The best way to deal with this problem may well be what West Germany is doing, it invited a thousand Soviet managers of various enterprises to join West German firms for three to six months to learn the business of management.

The Czechoslovak minister of foreign trade, for instance, told me that because of the poor quality of the goods the Czechs have been able to sell to the Soviet Union for so long, they now have great difficulty to improve the quality in order to be able to sell to the West. Only five per cent of those exports to the Soviet Union can be transferred to Western markets.

Most of the Eastern European countries, including the Soviet Union are not asking for financial aid, what they want most is foreign investments. But as long as their currencies are not convertible until very recently.

The magnitude of the task confronting the East European countries is daunting and so are the consequences if the "big bang" fails.

Hardships

Some of those governments, such as the Czech and Hungarian and, most probably the Soviet one, seem to have decided to follow a more gradual path to avoid the avalanche of hardships and dislocations that a radical reform is bound to create. They are afraid that if the reforms are poorly managed, they could easily lead to stagnation or, possibly, economic collapse. It is one of the reasons why Western investors are hesitant to risk major investments, except for some of the industrial giants, such as General Electric, International Business Machines or motor car manufacturers. Large state enterprises are likely to dominate the economies of these countries for some years to come. The promotion of new private businesses will therefore be slow and so will be the profitable functioning of the private sector.

No doubt, the Soviet Union offers the largest market for foreign investors, but also the most difficult to operate within it. The Soviets lack a skilled labour force that is eager to work and trained in Western business methods. For too long it has been used to go its own pace, take time off for a cigarette or a rest. The Soviet government is also the most difficult to deal with when it comes to negotiate conditions for foreign investors and to allow profits to be exported in hard currencies. It will be the most difficult to integrate into the world economy.

Another important problem that has not existed before is that the trade unions are assuming a much more active role than they did under a communist regime, for they never before had to face the threat of large-scale unemployment. The miners and railway workers have gone on strike in the Soviet Union and some unions in Poland have only at the last minute agreed to postpone a strike. As the economic situations grow worse, strikes may be harder to avoid and that in turn, of course, would also hurt economic recovery.

In all the Eastern European countries the railway and storage systems are in very bad shape and as a consequence foodstuffs are often destroyed before it can reach the markets. According to official statistics 75 per cent of the potato crop never reaches the consumer and, overall, about 25 per cent of Soviet farm production is wasted. And there is not much that the Soviet government can do to remedy the situation. Most of the railway cars used in the Soviet Union have been built in East Germany and, most likely, East German manufacturers will, in future, be keener on selling to the West than to the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the Soviets will have to pay in hard currencies for virtually everything they will want to buy in the West, unless barter deals can be negotiated.

The deep economic uncertainties the East Europeans are facing are not surprising, but they could lead to people wanting to revive the old certainties that existed under the communist regimes. The broad masses do not care so much about freedom of speech as they do about their livelihood and many Western statesmen are well aware of that. If the West wants to prevent the failure of the much praised free market system in Eastern Europe, it may well have to do more in aiding these economies. As T.H. Gianni de Michelis warned recently: "A crisis in one area could not avoid having repercussions on the others. Should the Soviet society and Soviet economy risk collapse, the threat would extend to these contiguous and partially complementary areas."

It is almost certain that much of the debt owed by Eastern Europe — 40 billion by Poland alone — will have to be forgiven. But that will not be enough. That was recognised by the establishment of a European investment bank for Eastern Europe, but its \$1.2 billion capitalisation is puny compared to the needs in Eastern Europe. As of now, the European governments are more willing to provide financial assistance than the United States.

Another, totally unexpected problem, is the seeming disintegration of the Soviet Union into a loose confederation with each member seeking to have its own trade and economic relations with the outside world. Yet, for instance, the new president of the Russian republic, is claiming that Russian law is above that of the Soviet Union and that it must be able to negotiate its own contracts with other governments. Since 90 per cent of the oil produced in the Soviet Union comes from Russia, it is of course in a very favourable position to trade with the rest of the world.

Quebec premier walks tightrope

MONTREAL. (Reuters): Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa walks a tightrope these days as he reassures the world of the Canadian province's stability while promising aggrieved nationalists that a new era has begun in Quebec.

Bourassa is well aware of the danger, having been toppled in 1976 by the separatist Parti Quebecois after misjudging the depth of the nationalist sentiment in the province.

"A new page has been turned in Quebec's history," Bourassa said in a televised interview, reacting to calls in Quebec for a grand gesture following the death of the Meech Lake constitutional accord, which would have recognised the French-speaking province as a distinct society within Canada.

Restraint

But his restrained response to the accord's collapse — nothing more than a declaration that he would boycott future constitutional talks — stirred the hopes of the opposition Parti Quebecois which senses many Quebecers want more.

Recent polls show nearly 60 per cent of Quebecers favour a sovereign Quebec, a politically independent nation which would, however, retain most economic links with English-speaking Canada.

Many of the province's French Canadians view the failure of the Meech Lake Accord as the last proof they needed of English Canada's indifference.

Evidence of Quebec's impatience emerged on Monday in parades celebrating Quebec's national holiday when thousands of Quebecers spontaneously joined the orderly St Jean Baptiste Day procession, chanting independence slogans.

"Sovereignty is more than ever inevitable," Parti Quebecois leader Jacques Parizeau said after the death of the accord.

Sensing the hurt in the province, the normally phlegmatic Bourassa lashed out at the provinces that killed the accord — Manitoba and Newfoundland — and cancelled plans to meet with the other nine provincial premiers this August in Winnipeg.

But the 54-year-old economist refused to undertake more serious steps until a panel he created weeks ago to study Quebec's options submits its reports next February.

Let down

While Bourassa's measured approach has reassured his English Canadian allies in the federal government and Ontario as well as international investors, many Quebecers felt let down.

"These were less than even symbolic moves. They don't mean anything," said political scientist Pierre Fournier at the University of Quebec.

The disappointment is particularly acute because Quebec had made veiled threats in recent months that separation would be the inevitable outcome if the Meech Lake Accord failed.

Some political analysts say Bourassa may be vulnerable to an assault by the provincial opposition Parti Quebecois, which has gained ground in the opinion polls and is now trailing the ruling liberals by only three percentage points.

In 1976, Quebec voters abandoned him for the then-new Parti Quebecois, believing that the federalist premier was not sufficiently vigorous in defending Quebec's interests.

But Bourassa made a remarkable political comeback in 1985 after Quebecers, many of whom had become more interested in economics than politics, revised their opinion of him, concluding that he had done a good job managing the economy.



By M. Gordon

Art Buchwald

Nobody wants babies to starve

TO some people it's a problem — to most people it isn't. Food allotments for poor families are being cut all over the United States and expectant mothers and small children face serious cutoffs and malnutrition.

Nobody wants babies to starve and women to go hungry, but in a country as poor as the United States, what other choices do we have?

Totie Button, a rich government consultant to the poor, told me, "We're facing a crisis. When we promised to provide nutritional subsidies to one-third of all the babies in the United States, we had no idea what the bill would be. We can't give away food willy-nilly to anyone who asks for it while so many savings and loans institutions are starving to death. That would be fiscal suicide."

"How did the poor women and children get into so much trouble?"

It was just a question of the federal government wrongly estimating what food prices would be this year. There's been a cost increase in orange juice, cereal and infant formula. All the money that Congress voted for the programme has been used up.

"Why doesn't Congress vote more money?"

"Because nutrition for the poor is not an issue that

attracts votes. Someone has to tell poor people what Mother Hubbard said when she went to the cupboard and found it bare. So much for tough love."

Solutions

He continued, "There are solutions to the problem, but mothers are going to have to take the hit between their teeth. They must explain to their children that the reason they are only getting half a glass of milk a day is because of Gramm Rudman. They will have to appeal to a child's love of country when the infant formula runs out. Needy people can't just keep consuming food while the deficit is where it is at the moment. There are a lot of things Washington has to spend money on — and food for the poor is at the bottom of the barrel."

"Impoverished people don't talk enough about food to their children," I said.

"I don't want you to think that I am unsympathetic about this, but every mother in the country has to choose between feeding her young or watching another stealth bomber roll off the assembly line."

"If I was a mother, I'd want the stealth bomber," I told him.

"Due to the unforeseen food price hikes, we've

bad to cut a lot of folks out of the programme. In one way, it's a good thing, because if a child has never had a nutritious meal he won't miss it. I didn't drink orange juice when I was a kid, and I'm no worse off for it. By removing pregnant women and nursing mothers from the rolls, we can give the money to those who are clinically suffering from malnutrition."

"I'm glad that we have this crisis, as it will send a message to all those mothers who are trying to get a free lunch. There are lots of welfare women who can afford to pay for their own dairy products but who would rather play golf instead."

Button said, "The story of those of us who are fighting to keep the food budget in perspective has been ignored by the media. Just because we are involved in the cutbacks doesn't mean we are responsible for the rise in the price of cream cheese. Maybe when the cost of food goes down, we can address ourselves to poor people's stomachs. Until then our women and children owe it to their country to tighten their belts and say to themselves, 'Missing one or two meals isn't going to kill me.'"

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Washington

Bush treated Mandela as S. Africa head

WASHINGTON. (Reuters): US President George Bush treated Nelson Mandela as if he were already the head of South Africa's first post-apartheid government, but the administration remains concerned about some of the black leader's economic and political stands.

Barely four months after being freed from jail in South Africa, Mandela stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Bush on a small platform on the sunlit South Lawn at the White House on Monday — about the same place where Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was greeted earlier this month.

Bush further honoured Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison for his advocacy of black majority rights, with nearly three hours of talks plus a White House luncheon — events that lasted longer than those for some foreign heads of state.

Welcome

Mandela received a hero's welcome on Tuesday, as he became the third private citizen to address a joint meeting of Congress (both the House and the Senate), following the Marquis de Lafayette in 1824 and Lech Walesa, the leader of Poland's Solidarity movement, last November.

Mandela is Deputy President of the African National Congress (ANC), the leading anti-apartheid coalition in South Africa.

In his speech to Congress, Mandela cast in terms of American ideals and the revolutionary battles of the US founding fathers.

He appealed again for no let-up in support against the South African government in order to end the minority rule by the country's 10 million whites over its 28 million blacks.

Judging from the reaction in Congress, think he's garnered so much domestic support that it would be very difficult for the Bush administration to even partially lift sanctions in the short term," said John Hower, director of the African Studies at Georgetown University.

But Witney Schmandt, a senior investor responsibility research analyst, which studies South African political and economic trends, said the White House was clearly moved by Mandela's unwillingness to renounce violence as a policy tool.

Rabbits

Mandela also rubbed the White House, wrong with his expressions of friendship for Cuban President Fidel Castro, Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Mandela, the holdout, is magic and unique," wrote William Safire, a senior columnist for the Washington Post, who said he was "in a bit of a bind" to write a column for the White House.

At the White House, Mandela, 61, was greeted by Bush as "a man who embodies the hopes of millions."

But, eager to maintain balance, Bush also praised the government of President F.W. de Klerk for steps "to expand the rights and freedoms of South Africans."

Bush made clear his discomfort with Mandela's unwillingness to renounce armed struggle to achieve racial equality in South Africa. "The president urged an end to 'this cycle of repression and violent reaction.'"

In his response, Mandela blended praise for Bush with suggestions that the President was not fully informed on the history and reality of the ANC struggle.

Mandela said the tactics of the ANC and other South African blacks would be determined by the attitude of the white-minority government.

He said the ANC, outlawed for years until De Klerk lifted the ban in February, had a "total commitment to peace" as long as the South African government continues to move towards equality.

"If we are forced to resort to violence, it is because we have no alternative whatsoever," he said.

QUOTE ME

"I must say I have not given up my policy of conference, consultation and consensus to resolve all problems. But at the same time, I cannot look aside when people believing in the gun try to resolve problems killing innocent people and members of the armed forces. I have done my best to try and resolve problems through good will, trust and discussion. But, if trust is treated as weakness, those who claim so will themselves be cheated."

President Premadasa on the violence in Sri Lanka.

"France has decided to maintain its policy and continue to assist Africa whatever happens and whatever one says," Mitterrand at a Franco-African summit.

"The European Monetary System is already turning into monetary union." How do you stop the train without jumping off and breaking a leg?" — An economist at investment bankers, Salomon Brothers International.

"Your love and enthusiasm as well as your pioneering role in taking positive measures against apartheid betray the kinship you hold for our people," Mandela told a crowd in Boston.

"Who of us is Jesus Christ? Only Jesus Christ managed to feed 20,000 Jews with five loaves of bread. There is no other way of solving the problem quite so simply. We are on a difficult quest but we are on the path to fundamental change that will lead us along the road to renewing society." Gorbachev on the Soviet economy.

"While the world gears up for the 21st century, we have failed to resolve a debate that predates confederation itself. To my fellow Quebecers, I want to say how dismayed I am that Quebec has not, at this time, been able to rejoin the constitutional family with honour and enthusiasm. But Quebec emerged from these negotiations with its dignity and its principles intact."

— Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to Quebecers after the failure of a constitutional reform which would have recognised Quebec's distinct culture.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1541 — Leonard Lord Gray is executed for treasonable dealings with Geraldines while lieutenant of Ireland.

1629 — Peace of Alais ends Huguenot revolt in France.

1797 — France occupies Ionian Islands of Greece.

1812 — Napoleon Bonaparte's army crosses Vistula river as Russian forces retreat.

1881 — Immigration act of New Zealand restricts Japanese immigration.

1895 — Raids are launched from Bulgaria into Macedonia following founding of an external Macedonian revolutionary organisation at Sofia.

1914 — Austria's Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife are assassinated at Sarajevo by a Bosnian revolutionary, igniting World War I.

1942 — British 8th Army retreats from Germans to El Alamein in North Africa in World War II; German forces launch counterattack against Soviets in Karkov region.

1948 — Yugoslavia is expelled from Cominform for hostility to Soviet Union.

1950 — North Korean soldiers capture Seoul, as South Koreans retreat south of Han river.

1956 — Labour riots are put down in Poznan, Poland, with heavy loss of life.

1976 — The Seychelles, Indian Ocean group of islands, become independent after 102 years under British rule.

1986 — West European leaders, meeting in the Netherlands, delay indefinitely imposing economic sanctions against South Africa.

1988 — US military attache to Greece is killed by powerful car bomb that blows his armour-plated auto off road as he leaves home for Athens office.

1989 — Explosion injures four people in central Israeli town of Ramle.

LANGOLITA

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Norway faces one of its biggest tests

Curbing oil output to end

OSLO, June 27. (Reuters) Norway's four-year-old policy of curbing oil output to help Opec support prices faces one of its biggest tests next month — after the restraints are abandoned.

The end of the policy from July 1 means North Sea oil firms will no longer have to pump oil at five per cent below capacity. It should in theory immediately raise output by almost 90,000 barrels per day (bpd) to a record around 1.79 million.

But even Norway admits that its estimate of oil output capacity in the first half 1990 was too high. Opec nations wonder about the validity of "curbs" based on over-estimates. Any rises in output may be limited in the short term.

Oil Minister Eivind Reiten said he expected Norway's output in the second half of 1990 would rise to around 1.70 million bpd from an

average of just above 1.60 million in the first half.

The figures are well short of the 1.79 million bpd the ministry forecast last December as production capacity for the first half of 1990. With a five per cent cut, production in the first six months of 1990 was meant to be 1.70 million.

First half production capacity "might have been a slight overestimate, but it's always hard to project the amount exactly and there have been problems at the Gullfaks field," he said.

Sources at several oil firms said companies often submitted optimistic output forecasts to the Norwegian authorities for approval, hoping any curbs would still mean they could pump at full capacity.

"The cuts are mainly a sign of political will to Opec," one oil company official said.

"Quotas are also given on the assumption that all wells work properly, which isn't realistic."

Reiten said the policy had helped stabilise the market. He noted several fields have had to close briefly after exceeding quotas since restraints were introduced in 1986.

Norwegian oil workers shut down production at the North Sea Ekofisk Bravo platform Tuesday in sympathy with a two-month strike by the field's scaffolding workers.

The action by 120 members of the Federation of Oil Workers Unions will last indefinitely, said union secretary Per Ove Oekland. The union stopped production of 40,000 barrels a day of crude oil and 180 million cubic metres of gas at Ekofisk, operated by Phillips Petroleum Company Norway.

Respect oil quota, appeals Tehran

Ceiling will no longer be necessary by '92

TEHRAN, June 27. (Opecna): In a forceful appeal to Opec member countries to respect the organisation's accepted production agreements, Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh has predicted that by 1992 output quotas will no longer be necessary as non-Opec output will be in decline.

In an exclusive interview with Opecna here, the minister said: "We should be wise enough in the interim to determine a ceiling and apportion quotas which can be kept."

"Failing that, how can we be sure that the world will trust our word or believe in us? We have the ability to solve this problem and it must be solved."

He said that at today's production levels the quota problem would have been "solved forever" by 1992 as world demand would in the main be met by Opec member countries because of the dying up of non-Opec oil.

Asked why Opec had so far been unable to achieve its reference price target of \$18 a barrel, he replied, "I feel that member countries which violated their quotas and over-produced are responsible for this."

"We have had very bitter experiences in the past and I hope that these countries realise that we need stability in the oil market. The world no longer looks at Opec decisions very seriously. When we take a decision, everyone is sceptical."

Said Aghazadeh: "I hope when we reach an agreement in the future, we will abide by it. Recently, we have had indications that the Saudi government is keenly interested in the long-term stability of the oil market. The conditions for such stability exist. At the last three Opec meetings, Iran has emphasised that the present atmosphere is such that we can work out and adopt policies which will bring long-term stability."

The minister said that at the next Opec meeting scheduled for July 25 in Geneva, "We must really take the price of oil under serious consideration and unless it comes back to its normal level, other issues should be set aside. We want the price of oil to return to the Opec reference level."

In a detailed briefing about the domestic oil industry, Aghazadeh stated that until 1995, an oil output capacity of 4.5 million bpd would be "enough for us."

He explained that he had arrived at this figure after a careful study of demand for Opec oil between now and 1995. Asked about Iran's production plans after this date and until the end of the century, he said that it was too early to speculate on that.

Elaborating, the minister said, "this is not a matter of exploration. The reservoirs are there. The wells have been drilled. All we need to do is to repair damaged platforms such as Nauroz, Salman and Abu Zar."

We estimate the cost offshore at \$1.5 billion and half a billion for onshore. That is not big money, so we will surely be able to reach the desired additional capacity of 600,000 bpd."

The minister said mobilising foreign resources was no problem, adding that the terms offered by the government to foreign companies had been accepted and many agreements had already been signed.

Asked if Iranian reserves were declining considering that the country was one of the few Opec member countries which was implementing a secondary recovery programme, Aghazadeh said, "Not at all. We have calculated the 4.5 million bpd production figure carefully after taking all factors into account. We do not see the necessity of making more investment than we need at this moment."

The minister disclosed that Iran hoped to get 20 billion barrels in extra reserves with secondary oil recovery methods. Asked what percentage of the country's foreign exchange earnings would come from oil and gas respectively, he replied that most of the income would be generated through oil.

Aghazadeh referred to Iran's recent gas deal with the Soviet Union, adding that many other countries had also expressed an interest in the country's gas.

In answer to a question about the country's gas deposits, he said proven reserves were around 17 trillion cu metres and other amounts would be added to this figure. The present known gas wealth of Iran was worth 100 billion barrels of oil equivalent.

"Gas is a very good alternative to other energy sources that the world can use. It will have an important role in the future,"

Cut in oil prices Accord delayed

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT Petroleum Corporation's agreement with Japanese clients offering them a 70-cent per barrel cut in oil prices for July liftings was put off until after the Eid holidays, a Kuwaiti source said yesterday.

A Japanese buyer confirmed that it is only a question of time before the agreement is struck. "The room for argument has been exhausted," he said. He told the Arab Times that KPC rejected their proposal for a price cut last Tuesday allowing only a day for final acceptance from the Tokyo head office before the last weekend in June that is to be followed by an eight-day Eid holiday in Kuwait.

The delay is uncharacteristic as agreements are usually sealed at least a fortnight before they take effect.

The draft agreement for July proposes a price per barrel of Kuwaiti crude that equals Oman/Dubai minus \$1.45 and gives KPC an option to revise the price upwards for August and September liftings. Prices are negotiated on a quarterly basis while quantities are fixed annually. Japan's oil imports from Kuwait stand at about 200,000 barrels per day. If the price is not agreed Japanese buyers can turn elsewhere for the supplies.

With Saudi Arabia and Iran having cut the price of their heavy crude earlier this month Kuwait had no choice but to follow suit. If it didn't the Japanese could shift their oil imports from Kuwait to Saudi Arabia. The Japanese trader rejected speculation of a prior war saying that producers were cutting but not undercutting the price. "What Saudi Arabia did was in line with market trends. Iran and Kuwait which have the same type of heavy crude had to do the same," he said.

According to agency reports the Saudi discount, which caused prices to tumble by up to a dollar a barrel, triggered fears that were immediately dispelled by Saudi Arabia that the world's biggest exporter wanted to increase volume risk-taking a price war. The Saudis have said that their move was merely to defend the kingdom's Opec quota of 5.38 million barrels per day.

W. German power firms head East

BONN, June 27. (Reuters) West Germany's wealthy power companies are circling the East German energy market, bringing charges they aim to exploit the vulnerable East as a cartel.

Vebs AG, RWE AG and Bayernwerk AG, partly owned by Veba AG, deny reports they are taking over East Germany's 15 energy suppliers and the whole energy network for 10 billion West German marks (\$6 billion).

But they acknowledge they are talking with East Berlin on taking stakes in new energy companies being set up to replace the state monopoly. An agreement is expected this week.

"East Germany has no time to lose," said Heino Ruland, an analyst at Bank Julius Baer AG in Frankfurt. "Energy is so fundamental for the economy that they have to come up with an agreement pretty soon."

But both the East German parliament and West Germany's cartel office have expressed concerns over the possible takeover by the three Western giants, which would strengthen their already powerful market position.

The West German Green Party, which is opposed to the terms of the treaty for economic union between the two Germanys, has called on Bonn to block the plans of what it describes as the West German power monopoly.

"The state treaty dictated to East Germany by the Bonn government has left a loophole in the area of the energy network, which the power companies now want to use shamelessly to their own advantage," said the small but influential party.

West German newspapers suggest it could cost more than 100 billion marks (\$60 billion) to bring East Germany's inefficient and polluting power plants up to Western standards.

But analysts say the two Germanys have little choice but to allow the Western companies to gain a foothold in East Germany. See Also Page 14.

Gold prices fall Slumping markets

VENICE, Italy, June 27. (Reuters) South African gold output could continue to fall as the country steps up political reforms, but industry experts see slumping markets as a major problem facing all the big Western producers.

Production in Australia could decline rapidly. But it will rise in Canada and the United States, although at a slower pace, experts told the World Gold Conference here on Monday and yesterday sponsored by the Financial Times newspaper.

South Africa, Australia, Canada and the United States account for more than 70 per cent of total Western world gold production. "There is likely to be a continued decline, said Tim Main, chief executive of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa, the country's leading mineowners' association.

Main said reforms by South Africa's white-dominated government could lead to a socialist society. "Whether this will take the form of excessive state interference or outright nationalisation is not yet clear."

The cost of nationalisation would be enormous, and if an incoming government refused to compensate shareholders, investor confidence would fall, cutting vital private investment.

Main gave no output figures but said South Africa's mines had been affected by weak dollar gold prices, while the rand had remained constant.

Inflation is running in double figures, increasing costs, while ore grades are declining and mine depths have had to be increased, he added. The long-term outlook for Australian and North American production will also be affected by low prices.

Gold prices recently fell to their lowest in four years at just more than \$340. The price was fixed in London last morning at \$353.60 an ounce.

Alarm over piling debts

WASHINGTON, June 27. (Opecna): The United States and other governments should admit that part of the official debt owed them by developing countries is unrepayable and they should stop going through the "charade" of rescheduling this debt in the Paris Club talks, a report released here suggests.

The report by the House Appropriations Committee accompanies the foreign assistance bill that now goes to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

It says that "the snowballing effect of piling more and more official debt and interest on top of itself for future repayment is causing hard official debt to expand geometrically" and will make the problem more difficult to solve in the future.

The Paris Club process, in which debtor countries typically negotiate economic reform programmes with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to qualify for rescheduling, works well when a country's economic problems are small and the IMF programme is well designed, claims the report.

But in many cases, it adds, the IMF programmes are "highly unrealistic" and debtor countries have later been obliged to begin the process all over again when their ability to repay did not improve.

The US government is owed about \$65 billion by other governments and also has over \$22 billion in loan guarantees outstanding under programmes of the US Agency for International Development, the Defence Security Assistance Agency, the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Export-Import Bank, says the report.

It maintains that since 1980 US officials have signed over 140 Paris Club rescheduling agreements, addressing a total of over \$15 billion in debt. The frequency and the amounts involved have risen throughout the past 10 years with the amount rescheduled in the second half of the decade about five times that in the first five years.

The report notes that the US foreign aid programme is becoming ensnared in the problem with the nation's aid money being used to pay the US back for its old loans.

Warning

"The absurdity of giving countries foreign assistance grants which are then largely used to repay the US is obvious and is even more troubling when many of these same countries have very large, poor populations," the report observes.

It particularly warns that failure by governments to admit that a portion of their debts are unrepayable "could have enormous geopolitical consequences in Eastern Europe," where the US should be maximising opportunities to stabilise the political and economic reforms that are currently being implemented in the region.

LDC ministers meet US leaders on debt

WASHINGTON, June 27. (AP): Four foreign ministers representing the world's poorest countries have appealed to US leaders to help them with debt relief programme and other measures to reduce poverty by the end of the decade.

Ministers from Bangladesh, Sudan, Somalia and Togo were delegated by the group of 42 LDCs, or least developed countries, to visit creditor nations and "sensitise" them to the magnitude of their socio-economic problems, said their spokesman, Bangladesh Embassy Minister Mahbubul Alam.

The four met President George Bush on Monday at the White House baroque for the diplomatic corps. They called on Secretary of State James Baker on Tuesday, and then left for the United Nations in New York.

The ministers have made the trip in preparation for the second UN conference on LDCs in Paris this September. They will seek understanding and support for "the prevalent, grave economic situation of the LDCs," the minister said.



Where's the best?

A woman takes one of the last pieces of butter out of the almost empty shelves in a department store in East Berlin, four days before the currency union gets into force and the shelves will be filled again with Western groceries. (Reuters wirephoto)

Quiet day for dollar KD interbank market quiet

LONDON, June 27. (UPI) The US dollar had a reasonably quiet day against the major European currencies after big falls overnight following President Bush's announcement that US taxes may rise in moves to reduce the US budget deficit.

The dollar moved within very tight boundaries as dealers waited to see what would happen next in the States, said analysts.

"The market wants to hear more on the Bush proposals. Higher taxes do not necessarily mean the Fed will cut interest rates," said Jeremy Hawkins, economist with Bank of America. "People are feeling that may be yesterday's sell-off was overdone on the basis of incomplete information."

In Frankfurt, the dollar closed lower at 1.6630 Deutsche marks against 1.6770 at close yesterday.

The dollar was down in Zurich at 1.4075 Swiss francs against 1.4125 at the previous night's close.

In London, sterling had a cautious day due mainly to Prime Minister Thatcher giving a less than enthusiastic reaction to plans for European monetary union sketched out at the European Economic Community summit meeting in Dublin.

The pound closed higher at \$1.7430 compared to \$1.7375 yesterday, unchanged against the morning's open. The US dollar closed lower in Paris, Brussels and Milan, at 5.5855 francs against 5.6315, at 34.18 Belgian francs against 34.48, and at 1.2193 against 1.2225 at close yesterday.

Earlier in Tokyo, the dollar plunged against the Japanese yen, in anticipation of lower US interest rates after President Bush's remarks.

The dollar closed at 154.35 yen, down 0.88 yen from yesterday's close of 155.23 yen, the Bank of Japan said.

In Zurich, gold was higher at \$350.50 an ounce against

\$349.50, and also closed higher in London at \$350 compared to \$349.75 an ounce.

Silver was higher in Zurich, at \$4.85 an ounce compared to \$4.80 an ounce, and it was higher in London at \$4.83 an ounce from \$4.79 an ounce.

At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 4.7744 Swiss francs, against the closing rate of 4.8087 yesterday evening, the Swiss-Kuwait Bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.6687 (5.7175), the pound sterling 1.9596 (1.9628), Japanese yen 326.2001 (328.7861), and the US dollar remained unchanged at 3.4115.

In Kuwait, the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market remained quiet as operators continued to cover their positions over the impending Eid Al Adha holiday, dealers said.

The market was short in overnight, they said, and the rate firmed slightly, later being quoted at 8-3/4, 8-1/2 per cent. All other short rates were quoted around 8-3/4 to 8-3/8. Little business was seen in fixed rates, and rates were basically unchanged.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29236/46 to the dollar.

The Saudi riyal interbank deposit market was unchanged today, as most operators had already covered their positions ahead of next week's Eid holiday, said dealers.

Rates in both short rates and fixed rates were quoted the same as yesterday's, and were expected to remain stable over the holiday period, they added.

The spot riyal was quoted around 3.7502/5 to the dollar.

In New York, US Treasury bond prices rose and the dollar fell yesterday after President Bush said he would consider new taxes, a move that economists say could push down US interest rates.

Index of leading indicators up in May

WASHINGTON, June 27. (AP) The government's main economic forecasting gauge rose 0.8 per cent in May, another indication the economy will skirt a recession this year, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said its index of leading economic indicators had slipped a revised 0.1 per cent in April after a 1.0 per cent gain in March. But even though the index fell in April, the revision was a slight improvement over the 0.2 per cent decline originally reported last month.

The index is designed to forecast economic activity six to nine months in advance. If the economy continues to grow through November, it will reach its eighth year of expansion. It already is the longest expansion in peacetime history.

But today's report also contained an ominous note — the largest negative contributor among the 11 forward-looking indicators was an index measuring consumer confidence.

It was further evidence that Americans are becoming more cautious in their spending, which accounts for two-thirds of the nation's economic activity and which has helped fuel economic growth for 7-1/2 years.

But as consumer spending appears to pause, analysts point to business investment and overseas demand for US goods as a major stimulus for continued, although weak, growth.

The leading indicators were released as White House and congressional leaders were preparing to resume negotiations on a plan to reduce the fiscal 1991 deficit — a reduction that would require continued economic growth.

A recession would make that task much more difficult since it would mean a loss of jobs and incomes, diminished corporate profits and a drop in tax revenues. At the same time, the government would be called upon to increase spending on various benefits.

In advance of today's report, a consensus of economists had expected the index to have risen 0.7 per cent.

Seven of the components were positive in May — a longer average workweek, an increase in the price of raw materials, a larger amount of orders for consumer goods, higher stock prices, a decrease in the weekly unemployment claims, slower business delivery times and an increase in orders for new plants and equipment.

In addition to the drop in consumer confidence, the other negatives were a decrease in the money supply, a smaller number of building permits and a drop in manufacturers' unfilled orders.

The various changes left the index at 146.2 per cent of its 1982 base of 100 and up 1.1 per cent from its level a year ago.

Many economists, who believe the nation's economy will continue to expand sluggishly during the remainder of the year, are growing more anxious over the slowing contributions of American consumers.

The consumer confidence index was negative in January and February and unchanged in March. It posted a slim gain in April.

Gorbachev looks to golf: Mikhail Gorbachev doesn't play golf — chess is his game — but he knows that in the United States many a business deal is struck on the fairways and greens.

So it wasn't surprising that when the Soviet President came here recently to woo 150 captains of industry at a lavish luncheon after his summit talks, one of those invited was golf course designer Robert Trent Jones Jr.

Jones is creating a championship course in a forest on the outskirts of Moscow that is expected to open in the fall of 1991, or the spring of 1992.

The sprawling 7,015-yard (6,313-metre) layout, the first 18-hole course in the Soviet Union, will feature golf in the bright nights of summer and cross-country skiing in the long winter. Someday, perhaps, it will be the home of a world class tournament. (AP)

Mandela's tour adds pressure: Nelson Mandela's US tour is adding to pressures on US corporations to cut business links to South Africa, analysts and academics said.

South Africa is already the leading social issue being put to corporate America by increasingly restive stockholders, who are using shareholder resolutions and proxy votes at a quickening rate to make themselves heard.

"The issue that comes up most often is South Africa," said Heidi Welsh, whose Investor Responsibility Research Centre (IRRC) tracks corporate activism. (Reuters)

Oil exploration fund: Malaysia and Thailand are to set up a fund to finance the development of a joint area for petroleum exploration, it was reported on Tuesday.

A government source said that the fund was made possible under the Malaysia-Thailand joint authority act passed Monday by the Malaysian Lower House of Parliament.

The agreement to jointly work the 7,000 sq. km area of the Kelantan coast, northeast of Kuala Lumpur, was signed on May 30 this year. (Opecna)

New 'Personna' systems:

Based on thorough studies and research, Pioneer offers the new 'Personna' systems. These component systems include just about every feature ever needed on a top quality hi-fi system, including an enhanced sense of power and sound-controlling versatility.

'Personna' product lines have full-function wireless remote control, musical alarm system with a sleep mode and a 10-band electronic graphic equalizer (Z-999Z/777). Its double cassette decks with auto-reverse are made to work together to make dubbing and recording a simple matter.

Along with a synthesizer tuner (twin) up to 24 presets and a 4-speaker system, the new 'Personna' line ensures wide, dynamic sound. (Press release)

S. Korea aims higher growth: South Korea has raised its target for economic growth this year to between 8 and 9 per cent, well above its earlier goal of 6.5 per cent, the government said yesterday.

The new target would also be above the 6.7 per cent growth achieved last year when exports were sluggish. The Korean economy grew an average of 12.7 per cent a year between 1986 and 1988, when exports jumped by more than 20 per cent annually.

The new goal was contained in an economic management plan for the second half of this year, adopted Tuesday in a meeting of economic ministers. (AP)

US farm lobby talks: A high level delegation from the United States, representing the farm lobby, will begin talks on Thursday with key agricultural trade negotiators to explore the likelihood of agricultural trade reform — emerging out of the Uruguay round talks in the General Agreement in Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Dean Kleckner, president of the 3.8 million member American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the largest organisation of farmers and ranchers in the US, leads the delegation and predicts "pain in agriculture" in efforts to eliminate trade-distorting subsidies in the GATT fall. (Kuna)

Morocco reaches agreement on \$130m IMF loan

NEW YORK, June 27. (Reuters) The government of Morocco has reached agreement in principle with the International Monetary Fund under which the fund will provide the country with a \$130 million loan over nine months, monetary sources said.

The loan is intended to be an interim standby agreement until a longer and more comprehensive IMF lending programme is put in place, the monetary sources said.

The loan must now be approved by the IMF's board, which routinely meets three

times a week. Sources estimate that approval of the loan will come in the latter half of July.

"This is an interim standby loan that precedes a medium-term, or three year loan agreement," a monetary source said.

Negotiations on an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) are under way between Morocco and the IMF, the sources said.

He said it is possible the EFF will be provided before the lapse of the nine-month standby loan.

"You can assume that the EFF will be in the

range of approximately \$130 million a year for three years," the source added.

An EFF agreement is necessary for Morocco to use official resources — from the IMF, the World Bank and sovereign governments, most likely France — to reduce its debt in a programme arranged by its commercial bank lenders.

Morocco has been hilled as one of the beneficiaries of US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's 15-month old debt reduction initiative.

Entertainment for kids is back in vogue

Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times Correspondent

IT IS NOW 'Kideo' trying to capture the video market for juveniles (and also grown-ups who have not really grown up). There was a need for Indian cassettes on programmes targeted for child audiences, who were relying on the imported stuff. Kids of rich families allowed to dabble with VCR's had become addicted to 'Toons' and Puppets from abroad.

The Kideo Entertainment Pvt Ltd. was recently set up. Their motto: "Video for kids". Based in Bombay, they have organised a distribution network in Delhi, Madras and Calcutta. For a start, they have relied on the popular foreign programme *GLO Friends* and *Super Ted*. They have obtained the exclusive copyrights for India and also got censor certificates

for the cassettes, which are displayed with the copyright declaration on the in-lay cover.

This may keep some off 'Kideo piracy' at least for some time. The company wants to expand and bring in other cassettes like *My Little Pony* (being shown on Indian TV), *Pleasant Sam*, *World's Greatest Players*, and *World of Guinness Records*. Later, some Indian items may also be tagged on. Tolu Bajaj and N.R.T. Murali Manohar are the brains behind the new scheme. If it succeeds, more will join the race.

This and the summer vacation awakened the sleepy Children's Film Society (CFS) from slumber. Shabana Azmi as the new chairperson has to show results, especially in comparison with what Jaya Bachchan (Bhaduri) did last year. So the Society's official producer Parvati Menon was helped to complete her film quickly for a summer release. It is called *Trituni*.

Previews and press conferences were held to get the film into the limelight. An Academy called Priyadarshini was roped in as a co-sponsor, along with its bouncy chairman Nanik Rupnani. A premiere was also arranged at Bombay's Eros, with boring speeches by politicians and others.

Trituni is deliberately called a youth film, so that it may draw children of all age groups. But the commercial release at three theatres brought ordinary results, despite the tax-free tickets. It seems kids are not interested in films specially doctored for them. Nor were they attracted by a tie-up contest of questions in which the prizes were bicycles.

Parvati Menon, who has specialised in children's films, has done a good job, even persuading stars like Mani-moovity, Utpal Dutt, Dara Singh, Mohan Bhandari to act in it. Prashant

Bhatti, Tashi Lama and Ryan Beck appear as the three boy travellers, in a rather improbable story. They fail to get admission in a particular college and become depressed. One grand old papa tells them to make up for it, by going on a cycle tour from Rajasthan to Kanyakumari.

The cross-country tour is supposed to be a better education for the boys, as they meet a variety of country people, experience their inter-ethnic, religious, human qualities and also face trials and challenges. Of course it would not solve the hard problems of formal education and employment. Anyway the film provided a good opportunity to sit up interest in the kid cinema movement among the top brass of society.

Shabana wearing an old-fashioned sari and hair style at the premiere declared more plans. The CFS would make six feature films before next

March. A sum of Rs 165 lakhs had been sanctioned by the government. (We hope it won't go the way the earlier funds of CFS vanished.) Indian TV would set apart a time slot for them. And they will also be packaged in video cassettes for domestic and overseas markets. A huge 10-crore complex for children's cinema is to be set up at Bangalore.

A further step was an agreement signed between India and Mauritius for the exploitation of *Ankur*, *Maina Aur Kabootar*. Since the film was co-produced last year by the two countries, this was a mere formality, of signing a pact by Shabana for CFS and Bijoy Madhu for Mauritius Film Development Corporation. The film came into focus because it jointly won the best children film honour at the recent National Awards.

Based on a story "Operation Pink Pigeon" and shot entirely in

Mauritius, the film by Madan Bawair pleads for the preservation of nature and wild life, especially conserving the near-extinct pink pigeon, found only in that country. The film was also highlighted at the international children's film festival organised in Delhi by Jaya Bachchan on a grand scale, last year.

Thematically there was not much of common ground between the two countries to justify the co-production. So an Indian ornithologist was shown going to Mauritius. With him was his grandson called Ankur, who found a local friend Maina, as they roamed through the beautiful country. They wage a battle to save the Kabootar pink pigeons, facing the wrath of even a witch called *Madam Zozo*.

The other film sharing the National Award was *Jumbo Savari*, made in Kannada and now being dubbed in other languages. It showed a young

village boy Samba living in poverty with his grand-parents. The track of Tapan Sinha's superb *Safed Haathi* was again followed, as the boy wins white baby jumbo in a lottery. This became a liability to his family and a nuisance to the villagers, but a source of joy with adventure for Samba and the local children. The conflict raised the question whether the elephant will be happy in his jungle habitat or with those who love him.

A really breath-taking adventure made some time ago by the wild life expert R. Whitaker was *The Boy & The Crocodile* or *Mudhalai*. Scenes of a pregnant crocodile taking shelter in a pool, digging the nest, laying eggs, hatching them in the mouth, and being finally helped by children to escape to the river as villagers come to kill it, went to make gripping and thrilling fare. But the film has still not been released by Children's Film Society.

Salman Khan

'I confess'

I AM going to be honest, even if it means appearing arrogant and losing a reader's regard. Probably a punishment should be meted out to me for having scant respect for that golden bowl craved for by us all — fame. Success and I have just got acquainted, so I will refer to it as my pal. I even view him as Satan in disguise and feel guilt grow within me. Am I an odd guy just because I refuse to be straitjacketed by the occupational hazards of my art? I like to think not. My pal, he won't let me — play the part, he commands, of a star whose film grossed more than even Sholay.

For starters, he cannot understand my dislike of film-journalists. He cannot grasp my fear of watching my private life being turned into a public circus. Why do I have to reveal who I love, why this compulsion for "together" pictures and coy copy? I never did it before my release, so why adhere now? When I read Kevin Costner's and Tom Cruise's interviews in *Esquire* I learn, readers get to know them, their art. But of what use is an article chronicling my sex life? Magazines carrying such pieces inevitably end up with a bhepuriwallah, because no one wants to file as reference what Salman Khan the stud does at night. Excuse me, I said to pal, I am not going to be victimised by these pen-pushers.

The one good side to this success story is the actual performance. I feel so alive when I am in front of the camera. Reading the script, going over the dialogues, the lightmen, the sound man, the ready, action and cut... those moments are tangible. I draw my inspiration from them. Tomorrow I am starting a new film at Filmistan Studios and my greatest tension is, will I be able to get sleep tonight? This is, in my view, the only profession in the world where you grow as a person each day. You are constantly working on yourself, transmuting ideas, imbibing from the character etched out for you to play. And the response is so instant. Two days ago, a very harassed-looking couple came to my sets with a little kid. They told me their son refused to drink his milk, and requested me to persuade him to do so. The director was waiting, the song was playing and I was busy telling the child to have milk and bananas daily.

I believe that all this adulation isn't for me. The real recipient is Prem of *Maloe Pyar Kiya*. It's him they love, oot me. I feel guilty, in a way, for stealing his audience. I really do. If I am questioning the potency of success it is because I have spent considerable time inspecting it pre-and-post-period. Today I stand at bandstand in Bandra and the girls scream, cry out my name. Before my film, as I stood contemplating by the sea, I was called a lech, a bloody ogler.

What really arrests, my attention is genuine praise. A few nights ago at the Oye Oye show I was called on stage. I had no item, I was not prepared. I was nervous and shy. That is what I said at the mike. As I



Salman Khan, teenage idol

walked down, a junior artiste came up to me. She held my hand and cried, without a word. This woman's applause, this woman who must have been nothing more than a dancer in the eighteenth row, made me proud. Amjad Khan was standing a few metres away. He walked towards me and said, "It is not *Maloe Pyar Kiya* that is important, this is. If this happens to you all the time, you are here for ever."

I confess I don't know acting, I know only emoting. I can't be like Hoffman or the other greats and speak of the different schools of

drama or about the importance of method acting. My teacher is life. If I am asked to project anger, I return to my memory bank: if they want me to appear dejected, I recall past emotions. I am the father of a dead child — I may never have experienced that, but I have seen my uncle die and grief is, I believe, universal. Pain may have an identity, but it has no gender. When I run out of experience, I will rely on inspiration. When I run out of inspiration, I will be 60.

I want my art to be a vehicle to transport my parents, who have gone hungry for me

and my brothers and sisters without letting us know, to the field of their dreams. I want my art to be constantly good, at a certain level, though I know that what soars to the skies must fall. What good is so much success when it cannot become for me a weapon to fight this basic law? I want to do more action, but they want me to be the loverboy. *Actioo*, because it gives you a longer innings. Amitabh Bachchan and Rajesh Khanna were both superstars, yet the guy with the gun outlived the romantic with the rose. But I cannot stand up and protest.

They are likely to say, hey shortie, sit down and shut up.

The other disturbing factor is the crowds I have to contend with. I want to be alone when I am depressed with the little upsets in my love-life, I want to be alone when I am disillusioned with the interpretation of a scene. I want very often to be alone, but my new pal, success, reminds me I am Salman Khan, not Greta Garbo.

Courtesy: The Illustrated Weekly of India

● Roopa (Draupadi) Ganguly seems all coo-fused about how to shape her career, whether expose and use hero tie-ups or not. While she says "rubbish" about her so-called affairs with Mithun and the Bengali editor of a leading English weekly, she is more confused on the question to strip or not to strip. Here are her words (if they make sense at all): "I am willing to expose and why not? I can't say I will never expose or wear scanty dresses. But I don't mean I should do that. I can't confirm anything. This is the film industry."

● Mithun has wangled a role for fellow — Bengali Roopa in director Bappaiah's and producer Shabanam Kapoor's *Pyar Ka Devta*. The lady producer found Roopa snooty but did not dare to offend the hero. When questioned, Mithun only said that he was being helpful to a "refugee" from Calcutta. Indeed, without him, Roopa would only be doing silly roles and dances with Javed Jaffrey in films like "Aman Ke Farishtay."

● It is being said that *Henna* is being rushed due to the deteriorating relations between India and Pakistan. Randhir seems unsure whether Zeba will be able to come for shootings to India and keeps a big reserve stock of her various close-ups. They are also talking of shooting in Switzerland, since filming it in Pakistan has been ruled out.

● After Naseer, Aaditya and Jaffrey stopped dressing up like women, for Anil Sharma's *Tahelka*, Chunky has followed suit. The difference is that the awkwardly tall guy willingly offered to do it, as he believes he would be copying Sri Drvi dressed in white. It will be a great pity if the censors cut the scene from Swaroop Kumar's *Jeevan Danta* under the new clause of "crudity."

● In the Telugu-dubbed version of *Maine Pyar Kiya*, the censors wanted to cut out the title song and dance based on the famous tune "I just called to say." They also wanted to reduce the fight scenes. And this, after millions all over the country have seen it in full in the Hindi version. Luckily the Barajatyia people got it cleared.

● The focus is on Amitabh Bachchan once again as Ajoo gets readied for release. For the...time speculations are...about his standing at the box-office. It may be recalled that it was 00 the sets of this magnum opus that the star gave his first round of zeroed interviews which the press eagerly lapped up. It remains to be seen if the audience will do the same to his film. For producer-director Shashi Kapoor's sake, we hope they will. He surely deserves success after the tremendous effort he has put in.

● Soni Razdan Bhatt is screaming for recognition and roles. She is even willing to play the seductress but everyone chooses to turn a deaf ear to her pleas, as they feel it wouldn't be appropriate to offer a negative role to their colleague Mahesh Bhatt's wife. Though Mahesh Bhatt himself doesn't mind what Soni does. "Somehow, nobody has the guts to cast me in an unconventional role," laments Soni, feeling extremely frustrated.

Book reviews

Vivid images of turn-of-the-century frontier

Killing Mr Watson, By Peter Matthiessen
(Random House, 346 pp., \$21.95)

On Oct 24, 1910 just days after one of the worst hurricanes ever blasted ashore in Florida, and in a place where the everglade deltas and the ten thousand islands stretch out to meet the Gulf of Mexico, a band of his neighbour-settlers gunned down Edgar Watson.

From this sketchy historical incident Peter Matthiessen has created a stunning and overwhelming novel, an evocative and brilliant story that is one of the best works of fiction in recent years.

The book has the feel of a historical examination. Matthiessen uses the techniques of oral history, with infrequent intrusions of material from historical accounts and spare comments on veracity from the contemporary historian-author. In so doing, he vividly recreates turn-of-the-century Florida, every bit a frontier then as the US Wild West.

The people are poor whites, blacks, Indians, mulattos, outlaws on the run, most struggling to make a living, to bring a decency and order to their lives

and community. At their centres stands Watson, fearsome legend — the murder of Belle Starr was attributed to him — friendly neighbour, prosperous farmer, ever elusive.

"Say what you like about Mister Watson, Mamie Smallwood observes, "He looked and acted like our idea of a hero." But heroes can breed resentment as well as respect, fear and envy as well as emulation.

And a growing terror gathered around Watson as he was linked in

people's minds to a growing number of murders.

Matthiessen's novel is an often lyrical creation of the physically overwhelming feel of the frontier landscape. It is also a magnificent, compelling and compulsive exploration of human character, especially character on the edge of history, civilization and survival. While it offers a simple solution or explanation to Watson's life or death, it is nonetheless brilliant.

"G" is for Gumshoe, By Sue Grafton
(Henry Holt, 261 pp., \$16.95)

Sue Grafton has decreed that "G" is for Gumshoe, "which is what Kinsey Milhone has to hire because a convict in a Nevada prison decided to put out contracts on everyone who helped put him behind bars.

Milhone, a southern California private detective, learns on her 33rd birthday that she made the list, and that the hit person enjoys his work so

much he's willing to kill her for less than \$1,500. The Carson city, Nevada, prosecutor who delivers the news suggests she hire a bodyguard, and refers her to an investigator he knows.

She decides to go on with her life instead, taking reasonable precautions. That lasts until someone shoots at her car.

Grafton keeps the plot going with the mystification, style and wit her readers have come to take for granted. One motel room scene is particular

belongs in some sort of hall of fame. This time she even throws a crumb or two to people who've been concerned about Milhone's sex life, though it won't satisfy those who long for her to settle down with a nice guy.

Message from NAM, by Danielle Steel
(Delacorte, 389 pp., \$21.95)

Danielle Steel's 25th novel — a sure best-seller in the formula writing that has served her well — features a female journalist in Vietnam.

In a story with tears, trials, tragedies and ultimate triumphs, from the usual mother who doesn't understand to the boss who does, Steel takes us on the tried and true path of broken hearts repaired by time and new love.

Heroic Paxton Andrews writes a widely acclaimed column about the real war and meets and falls in love with a real war hero. Readers follow the prisoner of war trials to the fall of Saigon when the hero miraculously reappears, and he and Paxton live happily ever after.

This novel takes no imagination to read. It follows the Steel formula. It will please all of Steel's readers, who apparently ask nothing more of her.

Cinderella slipper slips away

NEW YORK, (UPI): Fancy that, Cinderella doesn't want to try on the glass slipper because it might fit.

"You'd have to marry me," she tells the prince, "and that ain't what you want. You don't want the slipper to fit nobody."

"What's wrong with wanting to live a dream," the prince asks sulkily. Ah, says Cinderella, "In a dream,

you got to play by the rules and there's more nightmares than sweet dreams in my experience. In real life, you got a chance to make your own rules...to be the king you can be."

He pleads with her to try on the slipper.

"It may not fit," she says "because it was got by magic and... regret is the only thing love can't cure."

Will she try on the slipper? Will it fit? You'll find the answer in William Brooke's wonderfully droll "A Telling of the Tales" (Ill. Richard Egelski, Harper and Row, 135 pp., \$12.95, ages 8-12). You'll also discover a little masterpiece.

"Were you a wild duck where would you go?" by George Mendoza (Ill. Jane

Osborn-Smith, Stewart Tabori Chang, 32pp., \$14.95, all ages). The narrator of this dreamy book is a wild mallard, searching for home amid the ruined landscape that one was "safe and lovely and green and lush." It is a gently told horror story of pollution and reckless greed. The extraordinary watercolours are detailed and diamond-faceted.

"I had a misunderstanding with Sonam when people around her demanded money for *Ajooba*. But we sorted it out when she rang me up."

— Shashi Kapoor

"Speaking bad words is in my blood. The very first word, I spoke after I was born was not mummy or daddy but a bad word."

— Farha

"Aamir Khan, behind my back, refused to do a film with me. And he had always been so sweet to me. What hypocrisy!"

— Ekta

"I have lost count of the rape scenes done by me in films meant for revenge. Now it's difficult to bring freshness in rape scenes."

— Dimple

"Dimple is my wife. Only we don't stay together. Ask her why she is not seeking a legal divorce."

— Rajesh Khanna

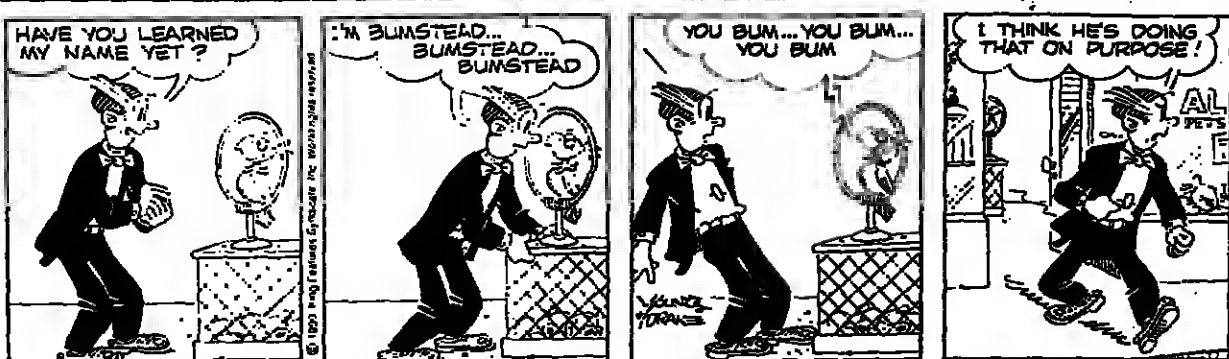
"I have spoken enough on Salman, and I have nothing else to say. No plans of marriage yet. I just want to concentrate on my career."

— Sangeta

"It'd cost the Ramseys a packet to make me look horrifying."

— Anupam Kher

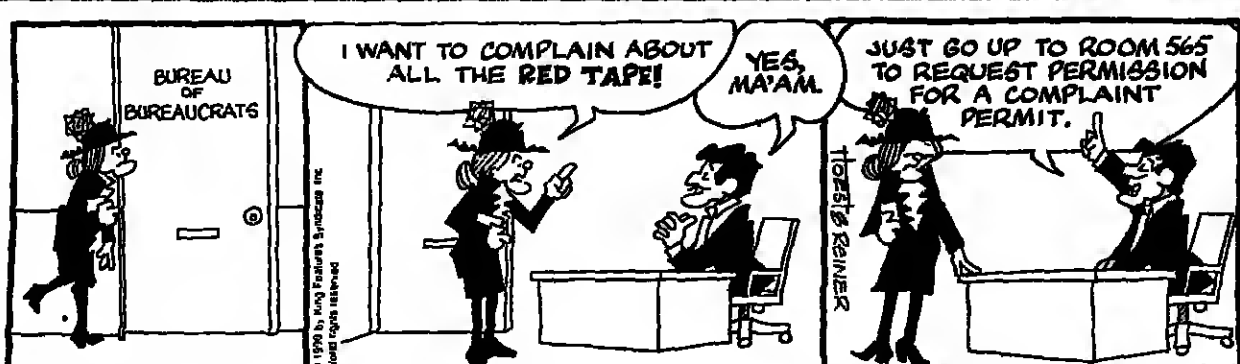
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



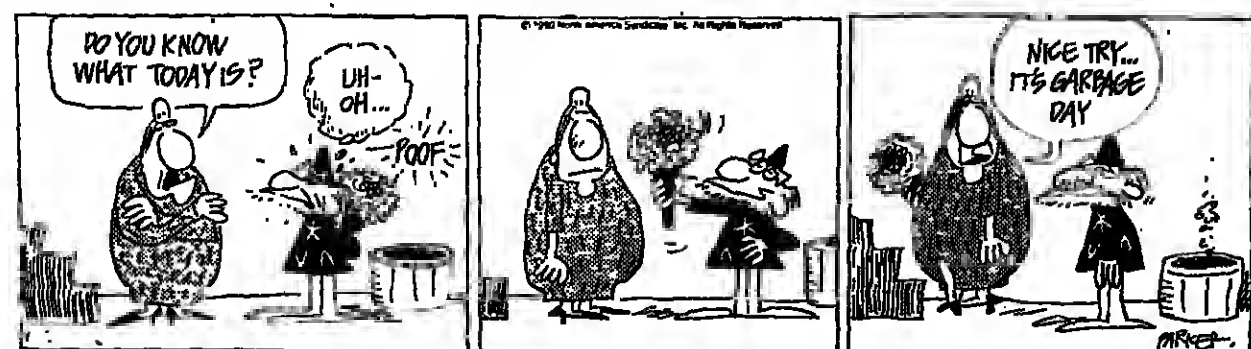
AGATHA CRUM — By Bill Hoops



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



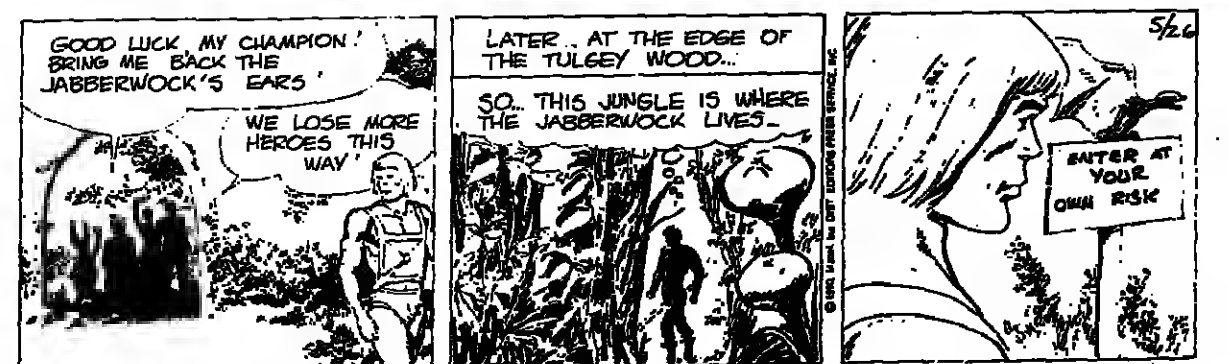
ANDY CAPP



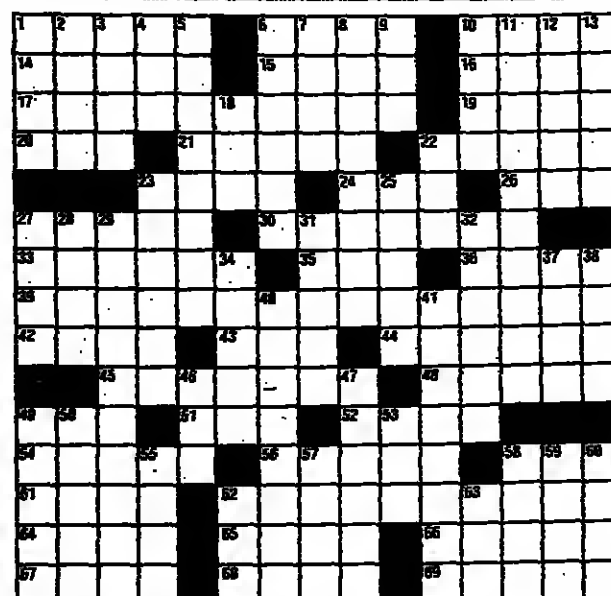
B.C. — By Bob Olliver



HE-MAN — By G. Conway & J. ...



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Forward
 - Large quantity
 - Leaning Tower town
 - Rare article
 - Spoken
 - Bradley or Sharif
 - Streisand/ Matthau film: 1989
 - Musical composition
 - Needle hole
 - Insurrectionist
 - Heaven: Comb. form
 - Isle off Scotland
 - OBs' gain these
 - Francisco
 - Singer — John
 - Warms up again
 - Flash or Ruth
 - Extinct bird
 - "Camera"
 - Benjamin/ MacGraw film: 1969
 - Gush forth
 - Mrs., in Lyon
 - Fishhook attachments
 - Fragment
 - Weather word
 - Existed
 - Exclamation of discovery
 - Pretentious
 - City in SW New York
 - More exact
 - Sash for Yum-Yum
 - Strawberry —
 - Streisand/ O'Neal film: 1972
 - Close
 - Hawk family member
 - Nary a soul
- DOWN**
- Yearn
 - Louisiana's Long
 - First name in mysteries
 - Suffer
 - Latch release
 - Peanut
 - Herakle border
 - Press agent's output
 - Clever
 - Needy
 - Untraversable
 - Finnish bath
 - Burning crime
 - Susan of "L.A. Law"
 - Springsteen's birthplace
 - Soaked through
 - Distributes the cards
 - Omelet
 - Ingredients
 - Chicago business district, with "The"
 - Brides' outfits
 - Variety show host, for short
 - Opportunity
 - On dine
 - Donkey's cousin
 - Aide: Abbr.
 - Feeling
 - Nervous
 - Actor Holm
 - Make tight
 - Least good
 - Hawaiian greeting
 - judicata
 - Against
 - Pro —
 - Fragrance
 - 59 007
 - Freezes
 - Calendar divisions: Abbr.
 - Luan offering

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

STAIRS LIFT AISPS
CAMEO ODER BELLA
AIRENA WERE OVAL
MAJOR MEANS VENT
EARL TWENTY
CROWDS SLAW
DIELE SNAKE DANCE
FALLS EPI STIDUI
EROLCSOME ELSE
HALT ACROSS
CINEMA OSSA
ESTIE IN THE MONEY
REIL MITE ERIDE
DICE EPEE RAVIN
STEID DART ALIANS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
USE YOUR ENTRIES WELL

East-West vulnerable. North contract.

NORTH
♠ 73
♥ AK2
♦ AQJ95
♣ AJ6

WEST
♠ Q10654
♥ 85
♦ 632
♣ 1093

EAST
♠ KJ9
♥ 97643
♦ K8
♣ KQ8

SOUTH
♠ A82
♥ QJ10
♦ 1074
♣ 7542

The bidding:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
Defenders will know they are in paradise when every hand they pick up contains an establishable suit without first letting the defenders with a couple of fast entries. Until they must make the best use of diamond. Any other defense allows what they are dealt.

With 19 points and a five-card suit, North had an easy raise to say West was lucky to find his partner's one. Needless to say, we can only reiterate: Good players South was content with the final make their own luck.

West led a low spade and declarer allowed East's king to win. Declarer ducked again when East continued with the jack and most Wests we know would have played low. Another spade from East would fetch declarer's ace and set up two long cards in the West hand, although which card West thought might be an entry to the spade winners boggles our minds.

The thoughtful defender puts his spade suit to work. Since it might be critical for East to have the lead come through dummy once more, our West will overtake the jack of spades with his queen. Having done that, the right shift is obvious—West must redirect the attack by leading the ten of clubs.

That does it. Now there is no way for declarer to come to nine tricks up contains an establishable suit without first letting the defenders with a couple of fast entries. Until they must make the best use of diamond. Any other defense allows what they are dealt.

Now there are those who might say West was lucky to find his partner's one. Needless to say, we can only reiterate: Good players South was content with the final make their own luck.

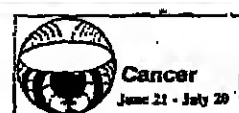


"We're looking for a non-stick bathtub."

YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20
A personal circumstance is liable to prove a little upsetting. Try to make the best of it and look on the bright side. You should keep your eyes wide open and out allow yourself to be deceived. Be amenable.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
You are more likely to trip over things and to leave articles behind and should take preventive measures. Do your best to avoid getting into an argument. Make sure you do not spend more than you can readily afford. Be practical.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
There will be some financial worries. Do not spend as if there were no tomorrow. Make sure you do not allow your emotions to run away with you. You would do well to think again about what to do before acting. Be fair.



Capricorn
Dec. 23 - Jan. 19
You will encounter an unexpected obstacle, but it should not discourage you altogether. Make sure you do not lose sight of the distinction between what is and what is not possible. Check your facts and do not rely on guesswork. Be tactful.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
Instead of permitting litter to accumulate you should be more tidy. Make sure you do not let a relative stranger into a family secret. Something you have been taking for granted will prove to be wrong. Be willing to learn.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 22
You will not always find it easy to stay on good terms with your neighbors. However you should do your best not to annoy them or your friends. Do ensure that you are properly dressed for the occasion, not too ostentatious. Be methodical.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If you have to go on a journey make sure you do not leave making arrangements until the last minute. You would do well to avoid allowing your personal papers to get out of order. Rid yourself of prejudices and preconceptions. Be sensible.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
Even if not everything is in your favor you should not allow yourself to take too gloomy a view of things. You should avoid making a decision on the spur of the moment, but there is nothing to be gained by procrastinating.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
Not everything is as you would wish it to be but something is better than you had expected. Do not be slow in showing your gratitude. Do not allow your social life to become the most important aspect of your life. Be generous.



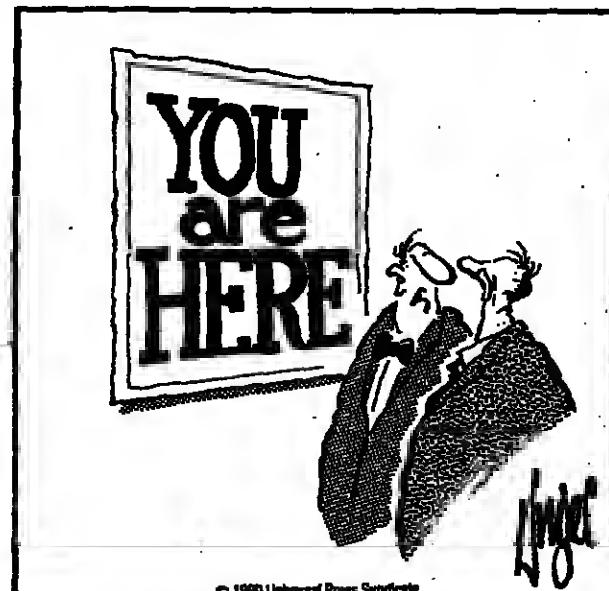
Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You will tend to be rather jealous and resentful and should do your utmost to counter the trend. Avoid growing out of touch with current events. And keep abreast of new developments in your field. Be tolerant.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will have a lot to do and should avoid trying to do too many things all at once. Do not exaggerate the difficulties but do not seek to ignore them either. Make sure you do not lose sight of or obscure your objectives. Be reliable.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20
You must appreciate that you cannot have your way in all things. Pay a little more attention to what others are saying. Your lucky numbers are 19 and 36. Avoid becoming too set in your ways. Be matter of fact.



"This one comes with a lifetime guarantee."



"Double cheese, with 'Happy Birthday' in mushrooms."

Rambert Ballet Dance Company

In step with the changing times

By Clement Crisp
Ballet Correspondent
"Financial Times" London

THE Rambert Dance Company, originally known as Ballet Rambert, is Britain's oldest dance troupe. It was founded in 1926 as an extension of the classes given in London by Marie Rambert.

Born in Poland in 1888, she went to Paris as a free-style dancer, studied eurhythmics with Emile Jacques-Dalcroze, and was engaged by Diaghilev to help Nijinsky work on the choreography for Stravinsky's "Le Sacre du Printemps," whose premiere he was about to stage for the Ballet Russe in 1913.

In 1918 Rambert married the English playwright Ashley Dukes, and settled in London. There she opened a ballet school, but her great talent was as a nurse — and sometimes goad — to her gifted students whom she encouraged by every means to dance as expressive artists and become choreographers.

With few resources, save her own indomitable will and energy, she started to give performances with her students, shaping such talents as Frederick Ashton, Antony Tudor, Walter Gore, and Andree Howard. In the tiny Mercury Theatre in London's Notting Hill Gate she put on fine ballets, some of which — early pieces by Ashton and Tudor — survive to delight audiences in the international repertory to this day.

Through the vicissitudes of 40 years, the company created, struggled and triumphed. Then in 1966 it underwent a radical change of image when Norman Morrice, another Rambert discovery, became joint director of the troupe with its founder, by now Dame Marie Rambert.

From being a troupe wholly devoted to classical ballet, the company embraced modern dance influences. It flourished in its new identity, producing works by such choreographers as Christopher Bruce — a dancer with the company — the influential American, Glen Tetley, and Morrice himself.

At a time when modern dance in Britain was starting to gain a devoted new public, Ballet Rambert was again in the forefront of creativity. A significant moment came in 1981 when Richard Alston was invited to join the company as choreographer.

Alston had been strongly attracted to modern dance and had benefited from the foundation of the London Contemporary Dance School and Company in 1966. He had studied, performed and started creating works there, formed his own adventurous breakaway group, Strider, then moved for two

years to New York, where he worked with Merce Cunningham.

On his return to London in 1978, Alston's creative style had much matured, and his arrival as choreographer with the Rambert was to produce some exciting and admirably clean-lined choreography.

Dame Marie Rambert died in 1982. In 1986 Alston was invited to become artistic director of the company, which soon altered its name to the Rambert Dance Company, an acknowledgement of its clear new identity under his leadership.

In its earliest years during the late 1920s and early 30s, the Rambert company's productions boasted fine design and excellent music. Alston has shown a comparable imagination in engaging some of the most adventurous and interesting talents to contribute music and design, and has encouraged like-minded choreographers to work for him.

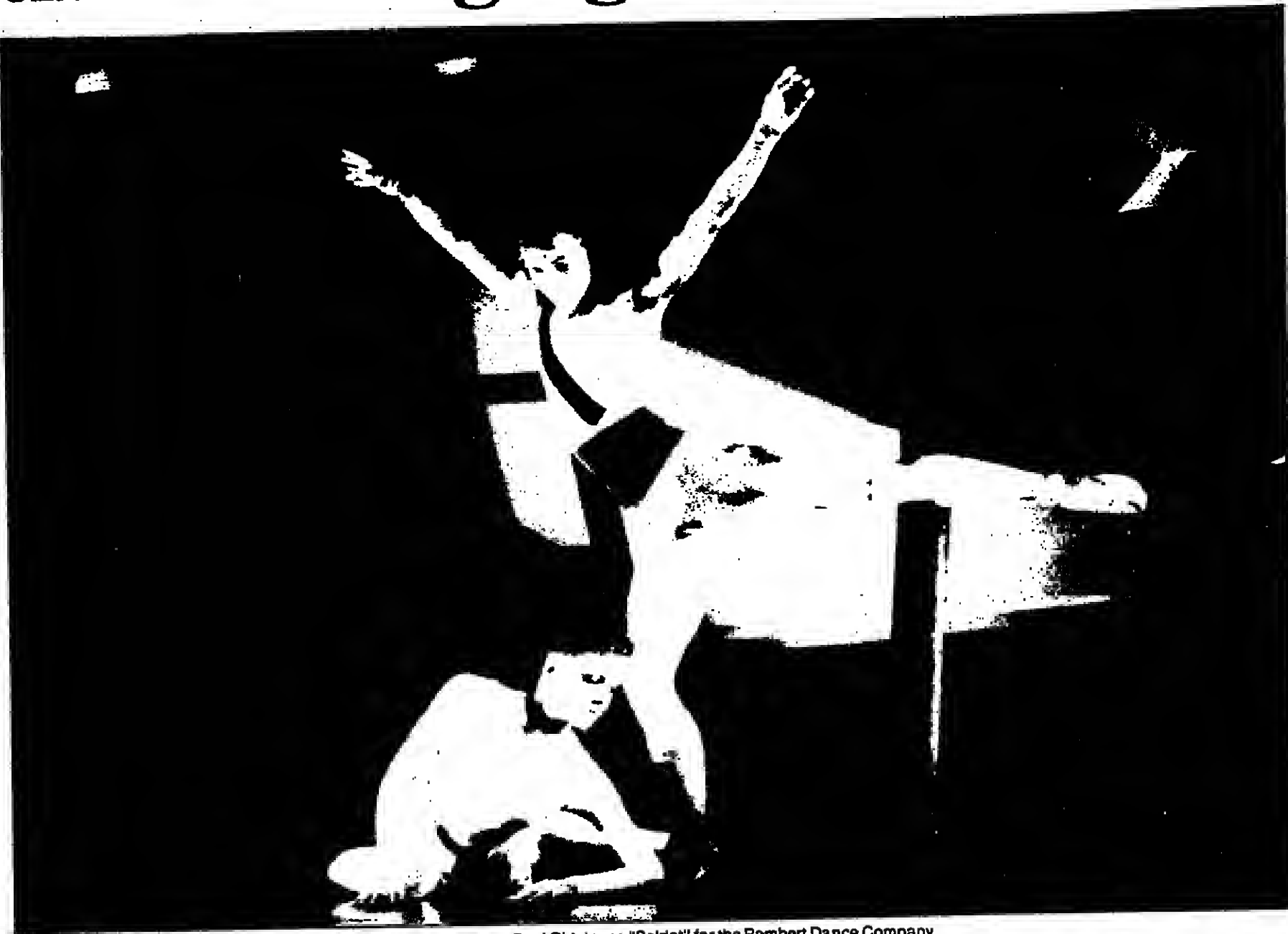
Under his guidance, the Rambert Dance Company has a strong personality and must be considered the most alert and creatively brave of any dance ensemble — classical or modern — in Britain today.

A fair idea of its character can be gained from the 1990 repertory. There are works designed by some of the brightest figures in British contemporary art — Bruce MacLean and Jack Smith — and scores by such distinguished composers as Harrison Birtwistle and Peter Maxwell Davies.

There is choreography by Alston himself, and by Siobhan Davies, who was with him at the London School of Contemporary Dance and with whom he collaborated in the early Strider experiments. Other choreographers include Merce Cunningham whose "Septet" the company dances exquisitely well — and another important American creator, Trisha Brown.

There are to be new pieces by Alston, by Ashley Page — a dancer with the Royal Ballet who has now created three works for Rambert — and by Garry Lambert. There is also to be revival of one of the early Glen Tetley pieces that helped form the new Ballet Rambert image in the 1960s.

The overall impression is of a company brimming with vitality, creative energy, and an open-minded willingness to extend the boundaries of the repertory by involving fine and adventurous talents in its activities. It is identifiably Alston's company, of course, reflecting his constant quest for the new, but it is also a true and vivid extension of the old Ballet Rambert which gave so much and so influentially to the development of British ballet in the 1930s.



Amanda Britton and Paul Old dance "Soldat" for the Rambert Dance Company.

Quiz

Born to lead?

Find out why

ARE you a born leader? Do you find you are the one who seems to end up out in front quite naturally whenever someone is needed to take charge?

Do people turn to you for a lead, to see what you think, before they decide which way to jump?

To find out how much of a natural leader you are, do the quiz below.

All you have to do is decide which of the answers to each question in turn is true for you, or describes you or most has your support. If no option is a perfect fit, don't spend too long worrying. Just tick the nearest one and go on to the next.

1. If you were driving a long a quiet road and you saw there had been an accident and another car had stopped just ahead of you. Would you:
 - a. stop and check the first aid and traffic flow were being taken care of
 - b. stop and take charge of the traffic
 - c. stop and give first aid
 - d. stop at the next phone box and check that the emergency services had been called
 - e. as long as someone else had stopped, drive on?

2. Time yourself for a minute. To it, write down as many things as you can think of that really make you angry. Count them. Did you think of:

- a. none
- b. one or two
- c. three or four
- d. more than four?

3. You are on a plane and you see what you think is fuel running down the wing. Do you:

- a. point it out to the person sitting next to you
- b. press the button for a cabin attendant and tell them
- c. go and find one of the crew and tell them quietly so you don't worry other passengers unnecessarily
- d. say nothing in case you are just making a fool of yourself?

4. You are passed a note during a speech telling you no-one remembered to arrange the vote of thanks to the speaker and asking you to do it. Do you:

- a. pass the note back with "no" scribbled right across it
- b. flee
- c. suggest someone else who is better, on the spur of the moment
- d. do it even though it is an ordeal for you
- e. do it without a second thought?

5. You go to a local residents' meeting. Do you:

- a. speak only if something comes up that you feel very strongly about
- b. be sure to speak about some issue
- c. probably speak about something
- d. almost certainly not speak
- e. speak because you are on the committee?

6. What do you think are the most important qualities for a leader:

- a. confidence and decisiveness
- b. ability to persuade others
- c. ability to listen to others
- d. the ability to relax and wait and see?

7. If you find yourself in a minority of one on an issue you feel strongly about, do you:

- a. stand your ground and argue
- b. think you must be wrong change your mind



c. see if you can modify your views to make them less unpopular without doing a complete about-turn?

8. You discover two good friends cannot stand one another. Do you:

- a. keep them apart
- b. drop one
- c. drop both
- d. pretend not to notice. As they get to know one another better, they'll discover they were wrong?

9. You are walking home late at night and think you are being followed. Do you:

- a. first check your suspicion by crossing the road and seeing what happens
- b. feel your knees turn to jelly
- c. speed up and head for a house with lights, on or a telephone box
- d. turn and confront the person behind you?

10. Do you think Mikhail Gorbachev:

- a. was lucky to be in the right place at the right time
- b. made his own opportunities
- c. has taken terrible risks and will probably lose his gamble in the end
- d. is a brave man?

11. Would you most thank your fairy god-mother for:

- a. power
- b. wealth
- c. beauty
- d. more leisure?

12. Do you think the saying "leaders are born, not made" is:

- a. completely true
- b. completely untrue
- c. usually true

d. usually untrue
e. you don't know?

HOW TO SCORE

	a	b	c	d	e
1.	20	10	10	5	0
2.	0	15	10	5	—
3.	5	10	15	0	20
4.	5	0	15	10	20
5.	5	15	10	0	—
6.	15	5	10	0	—
7.	20	0	10	—	—
8.	10	5	0	15	—
9.	15	0	10	5	—
10.	0	15	5	10	—
11.	15	10	5	0	—
12.	20	0	15	10	5

WHAT YOUR SCORE MEANS

150 — 230
You are a natural leader. You have the confidence and the ability to take charge and take others where you want them to go. I'll bet, even as a child, you were the ring-leader in most of the mischief you were involved in.

You are not one of life's sheep.
80 — 145

You do not usually take the lead, if there is someone else around who is willing to do it. You'd rather stand back and let others take charge, leaving you free to go your own way, on your own.

But you have the ability, if the need really arises. You will step in if no-one else will, or if whoever does is making a hash of something you think is too important to let go by default.
0 — 75

Being a leader is your idea of torture. Never mind. It wouldn't work if everyone wanted to, and you are a much nicer person than a lot of those who scored higher than you on this quiz.



JIMMY'Z

Hot n' Glassy Crystal Chambers Pumping Outside Slippery When Wet Coastal Cruising First Break Surf Safaris Outback Kickout Goofy Foot Spinner Head Dip Sideslip Soul Arch Quasimoto Nose Tweak El Telephono Mysterioso Evening Glass Off Barefoot Adventure Rollercoaster Flyaway Hot Doggin' Bitchin' Spoonmeat Stoked n' Hooting E-Z in E-Z out Team Jimmy'z Sportwear



Al-Salmiya, Al-Wataniyah Building, Basement, opposite of Shaha Complex.

JUNIOR TIMES

Of Some Value

In some places,
I see people walking together,
Holding each other's hands,
Caring for one another,
That is what they all have on this land,
They are to each other of some value.

I look around,
what are these noises,
These sounds,
I hear people's voices,
I hear them shouting,
I hear them laughing,
That must be of some value.

But there are some places,
Where there is no laughter,
Shadows cover people's faces,
For they are being slaughtered.

But if we were in their places,
We would know the price
Of their suffering and crying,
That should be considered of some value

But now we should open our eyes,
We should stop the crimes, stop the lies,
And make better ties. May be we can find a solution,
And stop the world from pollution,

But if we help one another
We could live together, forever,
And then maybe we could make this world
Of some value.

Faiza Mufiti,
15 years old.

AUDITOR
BAKER
CARPENTER
CHEF
CLERK
COOK
DANCER
EDITOR
GUARD
GUIDE
JANITOR
MASON
MECHANIC
MINER
NURSE
PILOT
REPORTER
SALESMAN
TAILOR
TEACHER
TYPIST
USHER

HELP WANTED

N H H K M L N N U S H E R
N N M M O U T S I P Y T E
G G U A R D A N C E R J P
H U T S S M N B A F O R O
C I E O B A K E R N T O R
I D A N M U B B P F I L T
N E C P N D B B E E N I E
A A H I N I C H N N A A R
H H E L O T C L T B J T T
C C R O N O V R E N I M M
E D I T O R N B R R B N L
M N B K N B G H K R K N B
S A L E S M A N J K F F A

Happy birthday



Mary Suja Koshy turns 7 on
July 2.



Sandeep Dhupar turns 2
on June 29.



Ahmed Sakeen turns 2 on
June 29.

Firsts and lasts

King George IV was the first person to own a pair of shoes made to fit his two feet. Previously all shoes were made to fit either foot.

The first English bank was not set up until 1603.

The last Dodo bird was killed in 1680 on the island of Madagascar off the east coast of Africa. This strange looking bird was in fact related to the pigeon family and was hunted for its meat by Portuguese sailors until it became extinct.

One of the first calculating machines was invented by Blaise Pascal when he was only nineteen years old.

In Ancient Greece they developed the first successful way of splitting marble slabs cleanly. They used corks which they wedged into the cracks and then soaked in water. Cork expands when wet so the marble broke neatly along the lines where the corks were placed.

Before 1790 all shoes had buckles; laces had not been invented.

Fancy dress

Match the children and their fancy dress clothes.



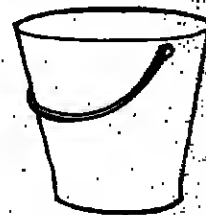
Measuring in litres

Use a litre measure.
Fill it with water each time —
right to the top — and find how
many litres each of the
containers will hold.

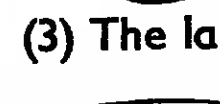


If it does not take an exact number of
litres, write (nearly) or (just over) after
your answer.

(1) The bucket holds.....litres.



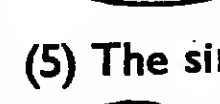
(2) The jug holds.....litres.



(3) The large bottle holds.....litres.



(4) The bowl holds.....litres.



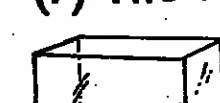
(5) The sink holds.....litres.



(6) The goldfish bowl holds.....litres.



(7) The vase holds.....litres.



(8) The aquarium tank holds.....litres.

Ask father

The car's petrol tank holds.....litres.



Tell me a tale

LIFE is full of joy and happiness for four-year-old Heba Khamis. Heba reveals new talents day after day. She always astonishes her family with her amazing ability to narrate televised children's stories and tales (drama and cartoons). She also imitates the dialogue of the characters of these stories which are written in classical Arabic.

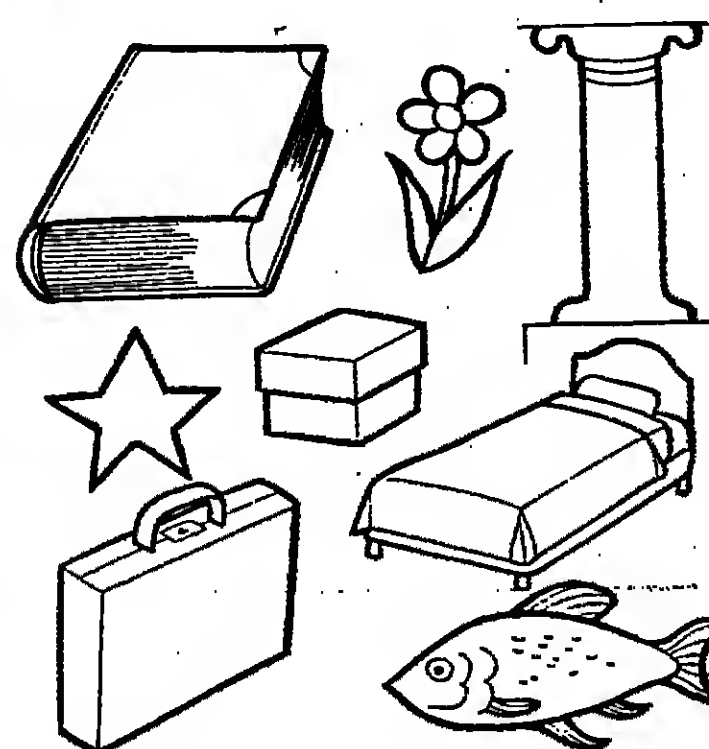
Heba has not started school yet, but she is learning how to read and write through the

Arabic version of Sesame Street (Iftah ya Simsim). The young Egyptian also adores singing and playing music.



Double-Barrelled Words

Pair up these objects to make four double-barrelled names for other objects.



Just for laughs!

Why is it dangerous to play cards in the jungle? 'Cos there are too many cheetahs about.

'My oew horse is very well-mannered.'

'That's nice.'
'Yes, isn't it? Every time we come to a jump he stops and lets me go first!'

A large sailing-ship was at anchor off the coast of Mauritius, and two dodos watched the sailors rowing ashore. 'We'd better hide,' said the first dodo.

'Why?' asked the second. 'Because,' said the first, 'we're supposed to be extinct, silly!'

Name oine aomials from Africa. Eight elephants and a giraffe.

Name four animals of the cat family. Mummy cat, Daddy cat and their two kittens.

When is a man-eating tiger likely to enter a house? When the door is open.

A policeman strolling on his beat one day was astonished to see a man walking towards him with a fully-grown African lion on a lead.

'Hey!' said the policeman, 'you can't walk around with a lioo like that. Take him to the zoo.'

'Oh, all right, officer,' said the lion owner, and away he went.

But the next day the policeman was again confronted with the man and his fully-grown Africao lioo walking along the pavement.

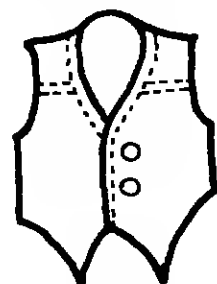
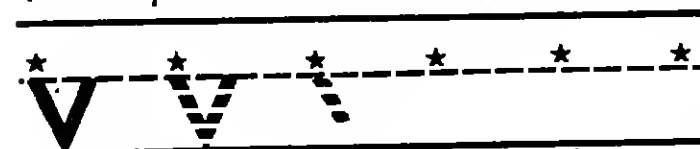
'Hey, you!' yelled the policeman, 'I thought I told you yesterday to take that lion to the zoo?'

'I did,' came the reply, 'and today I'm taking him to the pictures.'

Reader of the Week

Canadian born May Zein El-Din is Junior Time's Reader of the Week. May who goes to one of the American schools in Kuwait, will be turning five soon. She enjoys drawing, playing and telling stories.

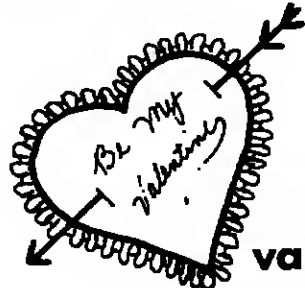
This is a v.
Here are some pictures of words that begin with v. Point to each picture. Say the words. Color the pictures. Trace the letter v with a pencil. Practice making the letter.



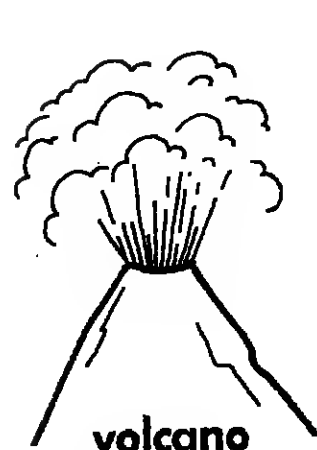
vest



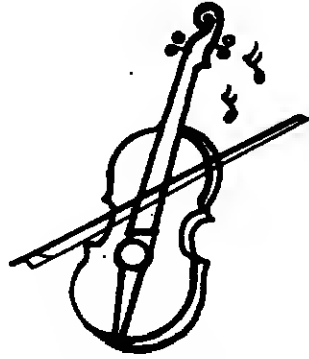
vase



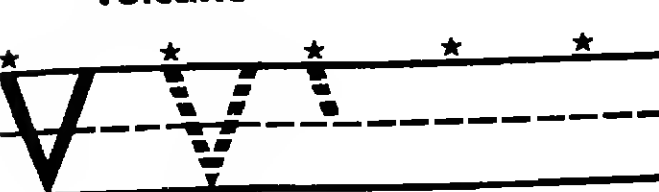
valentine



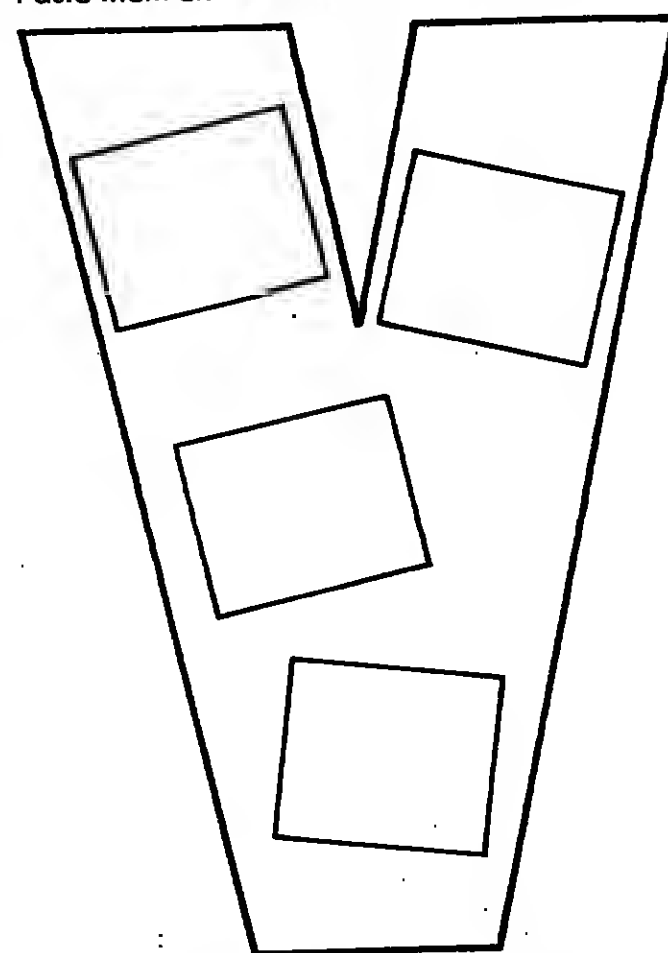
volcano



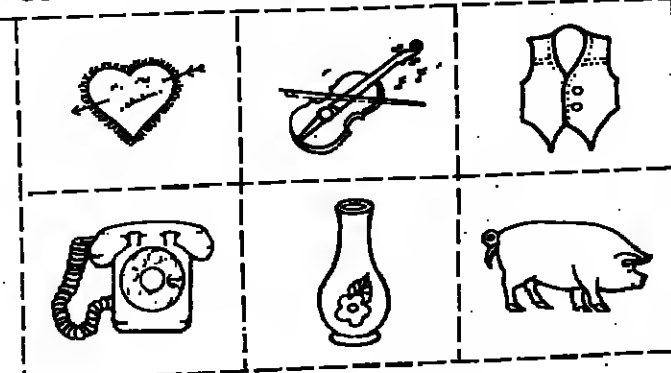
violin



Cut out pictures of things that begin with v.
Paste them on the letter.



Skills: Sound-letter association and letter-sound discrimination.
Cut on the dotted lines.



LEARI
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34

LANGOLITA

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Junior readers,

To keep you company during the long lazy days of summer, Junior Times will be saving a section of its pages especially for you. If you like drawing, writing poetry or stories, cooking, or reading you will have a good opportunity to share your hobby with

many other children of your age. This can be done through your favourite Junior Times pages. All you had to do is send in a photograph of yourself and the article you would like to share with your friends to the address below. Remember to write your name and age very clearly so as to avoid disappointment.

Further, if you follow every edition of the Junior Times, you will be qualified to become the "Reader of the Week." For this all that is required is a 4 x 6 photograph, your name, age, hobbies and school.

Finally, if you have just started to read Junior Times, you can be introduced to all of

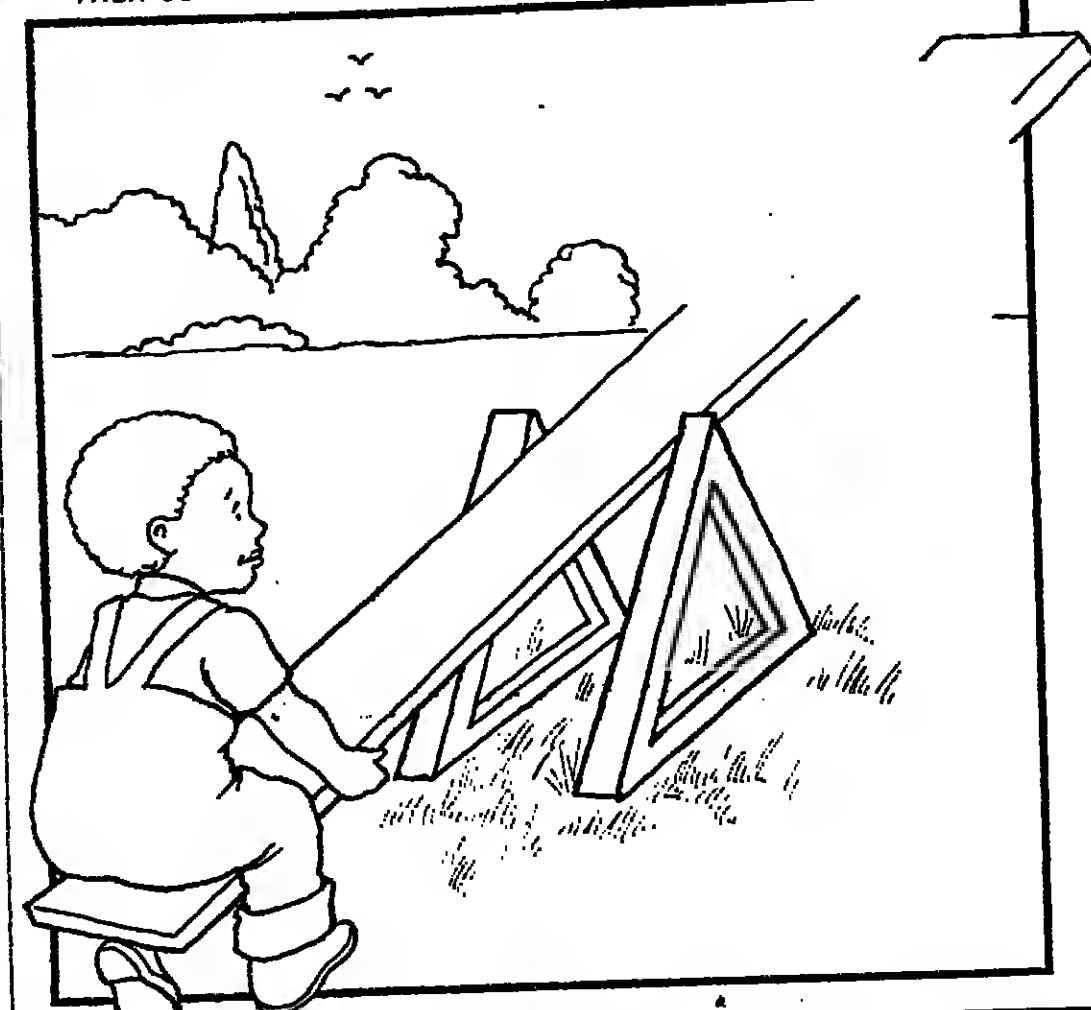
the other Junior Times readers through "Welcome to Junior Times." For this, you should send in a 4 x 6 photograph, your name, age and a paragraph about yourself. The address to send to is: Junior Times, C/O Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait.

Manal

Rhyme time

Seesaw, Margery Daw,
Johnny shall have a new master;
He shall have but a penny a day,
Because he can't work any faster.

Johnny is at the bottom of the seesaw.
Draw someone at the top of the seesaw.
Then colour the picture.



The first flight across the Atlantic took 16 hours and 12 minutes, this was achieved by two Englishmen called Alcock and Brown. In only 54 years, the time for crossing the Atlantic was reduced to 1 hour and 54 minutes.

The word 'canter' describes one of the paces of the horse. It was first called that because the Pilgrims

used to canter (a fairly fast speed) to the shrine of Thomas a Becket at Canterbury.

In 1886 the funeral arrangements were being made for a dead mao, and his family were saying their last words to him, when one of them saw that he was still breathing. He

lived on for a further 30 years.

There is a bridge at Charenton-le-Pont in France that was first built in 52BC. It has had to be rebuilt after destruction 17 times.

Right up to the last century in Siberia solid blocks of tea were used as money instead of coins.

a result. The richest oil country in the world, Saudi Arabia, first got its name from the man who created it, Ibn Saud, in 1953. Saudi Arabia is the twelfth largest country in the world, yet it has no rivers at all.

gic to cabbage. The word 'million' was first used in 1370.

Bram Stoker first had the idea of his horrible creation 'Count Dracula' after he had eaten crabs for supper and had a nightmare as

Happy holidays



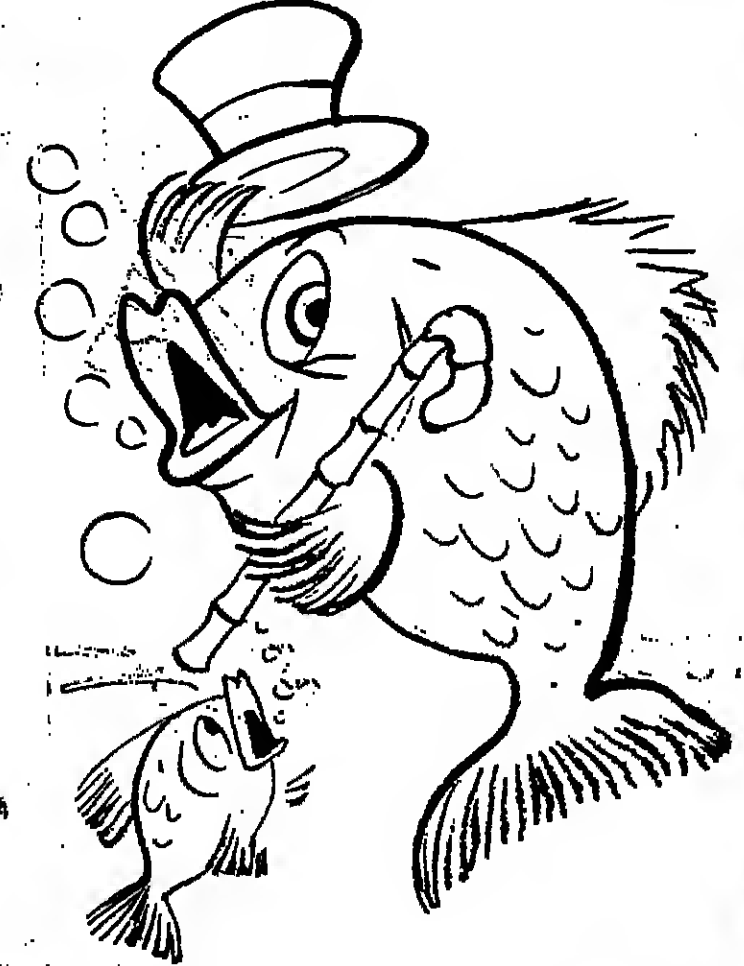
YASMINE Samir Fahmi (left) and Sara Samir Fahmi (right) recently left to Egypt for their summer holidays.

Eight and half year old Yasmine was born in England and now goes to the Gulf English School. She has worked hard this year and will be going to Junior 2 in September.

Three year old Egyptian-born Sara enjoys playing a lot. She will soon be starting nursery school and she is very excited about it.

Junior Times hopes the two sisters will have a wonderful time in Egypt. We will be waiting to hear of their adventures when they come to Kuwait at the beginning of September.

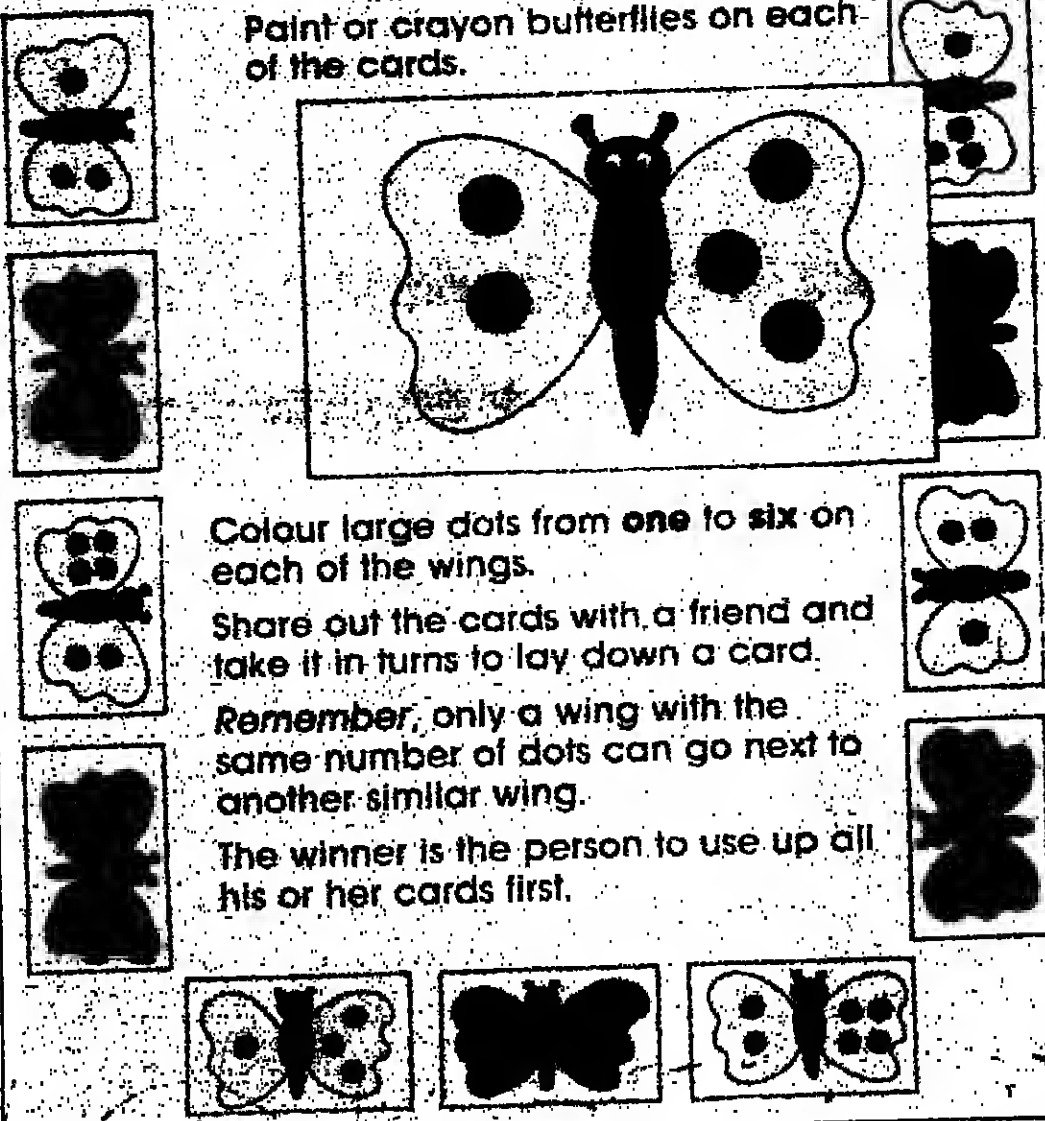
Colouring time



Butterfly dominoes

Use postcards or cut about 20 rectangular-shaped pieces of thin card.

Paint or crayon butterflies on each of the cards.



Colour large dots from one to six on each of the wings.

Share out the cards with a friend and take it in turns to lay down a card.

Remember, only a wing with the same number of dots can go next to another similar wing.

The winner is the person to use up all his or her cards first.

Did you know?

The first elastic bands were made in 1845.

Mickey Mouse first appeared on the screen in 1928 on the 18th November. Micky only has eight fingers altogether.

A 19th-century Duchess of

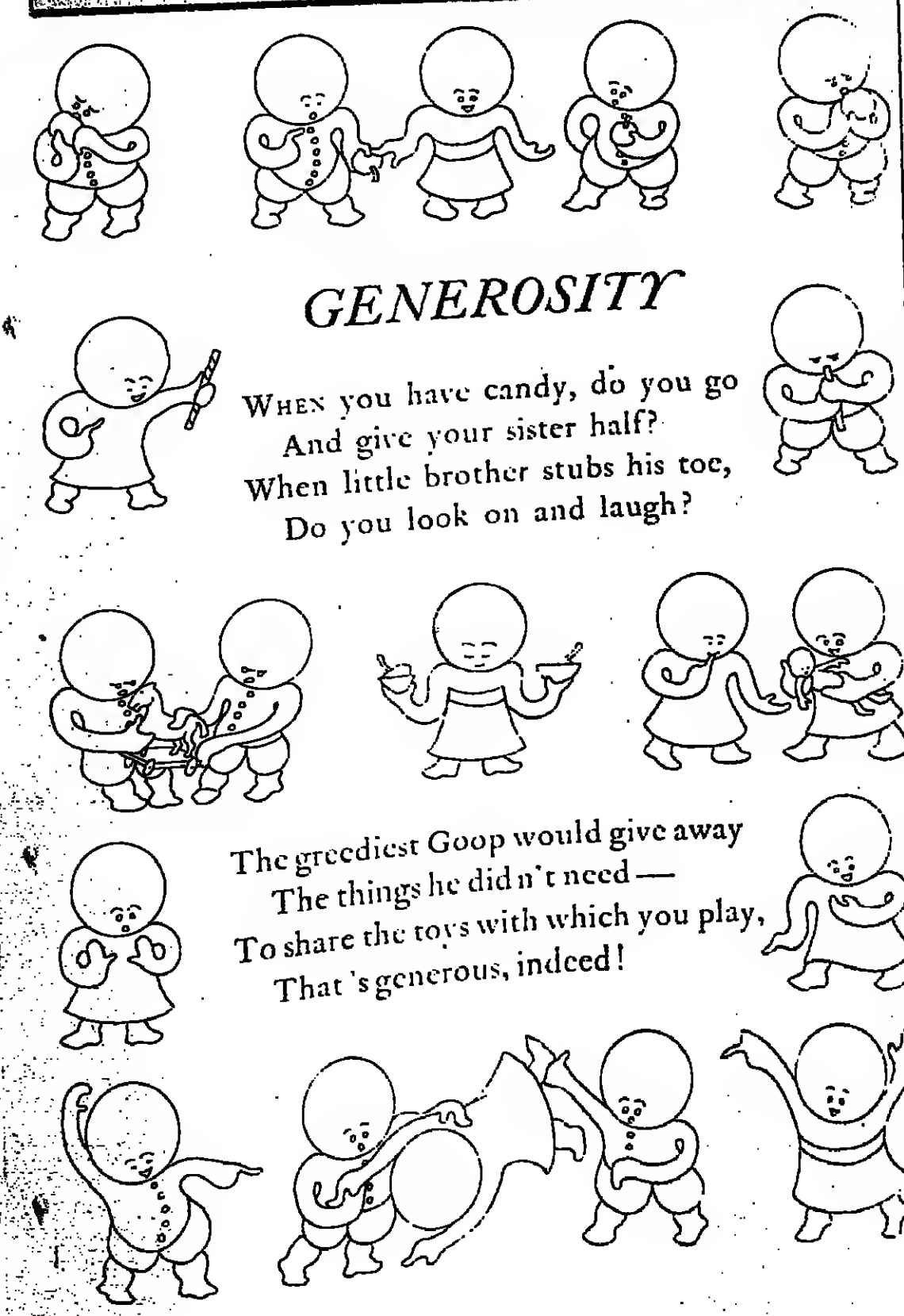
York, who came from Russia, first introduced the German practice of giving Christmas presents. She also loved dogs and at one time had over 100 of them to her home.

The world's first traffic lights had pride of place

just outside the Houses of Parliament — until they became the world's first traffic lights to blow up!

The first Duke of Marlborough, who won the great victory at the battle of Blenheim against the French in 1704, was all-

The Goops Again



GENEROSITY

When you have candy, do you go
And give your sister half?
When little brother stubs his toe,
Do you look on and laugh?

The greediest Goop would give away
The things he didn't need —
To share the toys with which you play,
That's generous, indeed!

Colour and collect



Add the fractions and write the correct answer in the space provided.

A. $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{5}{8} = \frac{\quad}{8}$	L. $\frac{5}{12} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{\quad}{12}$
B. $\frac{1}{9} + \frac{4}{9} = \frac{\quad}{9}$	M. $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{\quad}{6}$
C. $\frac{7}{18} + \frac{6}{18} = \frac{\quad}{18}$	N. $\frac{16}{34} + \frac{7}{34} = \frac{\quad}{34}$
D. $\frac{17}{41} + \frac{4}{41} = \frac{\quad}{41}$	O. $\frac{23}{45} + \frac{16}{45} = \frac{\quad}{45}$
E. $\frac{35}{62} + \frac{17}{62} = \frac{\quad}{62}$	P. $\frac{24}{67} + \frac{41}{67} = \frac{\quad}{67}$
F. $\frac{39}{72} + \frac{13}{72} = \frac{\quad}{72}$	Q. $\frac{7}{11} + \frac{2}{11} = \frac{\quad}{11}$
G. $\frac{3}{10} + \frac{1}{10} = \frac{\quad}{10}$	R. $\frac{2}{7} + \frac{5}{7} = \frac{\quad}{7}$
H. $\frac{7}{13} + \frac{3}{13} = \frac{\quad}{13}$	S. $\frac{9}{14} + \frac{3}{14} = \frac{\quad}{14}$
I. $\frac{9}{20} + \frac{5}{20} = \frac{\quad}{20}$	T. $\frac{29}{53} + \frac{12}{53} = \frac{\quad}{53}$
J. $\frac{10}{27} + \frac{11}{27} = \frac{\quad}{27}$	U. $\frac{42}{91} + \frac{29}{91} = \frac{\quad}{91}$
K. $\frac{28}{83} + \frac{37}{83} = \frac{\quad}{83}$	V. $\frac{16}{48} + \frac{15}{48} = \frac{\quad}{48}$

EVENTS

VIDEO CORNER

Crime not glorified

By Brian Hollis

IF Al Capone is the first name which springs to mind when American gangsters are mentioned, his counterpart for English people must certainly be the Kray Twins. Ronnie and Reggie terrorised the East End of London for 10 years until the mid 60's, when they were finally nailed for murders which each carried out personally, in cold blood.

The film *The Krays* caused a furor even before it was released, due to the royalties paid to the twins who are both still in jail. When the film soared to number one in the box office a couple of months ago, everyone thought it was simply due to the sensational nature of the subject, and the film was heavily criticised for glorifying crime.

In fact, *The Krays* is a very good film - a worthy successor to 'The Long Good Friday', which tries to explain how the Twins' background led to their later behaviour. Both are portrayed unsympathetically (by pop stars Gary and Martin Kemp) as violent and spoilt youths ready to cut up anybody who happens to interfere with their daily lives, or who happens to meet them when they're having a bad day. The blame is squarely laid on the matriarchy in which they grew up. Their dutiful mother (Billie Whitelaw) and an extended family of women are a constant force in their lives, pampering and spoiling them well into adulthood. 'Men are born children and they stay children' muses their grandma.

There is a bit too much 'Eastenders' type cheap philosophy for my liking, but the acting and fast directing carry the film through. Gary Kemp is especially good as the psychopathic Ronnie, constantly trying to prove himself through 'The glamour of fear'. Director Peter Medak has created that indispensable seedy atmosphere, and knows how to keep a story moving. All in all a gripping if violent biopic of the hoodlums who ruled the East End of London in the 60's.

Danny, *The Champion of the*

World, is another recent British release, but this time of the usual slumming variety. In 1955, Danny lives with his dad (father and son team Jeremy and Sam Jones) in a gypsy caravan in an unsloped corner of England. City spiv turned country landlord Victor Hazell (Robbie Coltrane) has plans to develop a new town and to extend his pheasant shooting for grateful gentry, but has to buy the Smith's garage to make a marketable piece of land. But dad has a special hatred of nouveau riche developers, and prefers to keep the pheasants for occasional poaching rather than mindless slaughter. Of course father and son eventually turn the tables on nasty Mr Hazell. Adapted from Roald Dahl's *Children's Favourite*, this one should be a big hit for family viewing, although most adults will find it rather snobby and smug.

Award for worst major comedy of the year must surely go to *Madhouse*, a gross mish-mash of shrieking, mugging and bad taste, which tells the story of a yuppie couple's move into their dream house. Mark (John Larroquette) and Jessie (Kristie Alley) are about to start enjoying wild sex when bothersome house guests start to appear: a dimwitted cousin and his grass-pregnant wife; a redneck neighbour and his malicious kids, and Jessie's man-crazy recently divorced sister and dope-dealer son. This vile gang take over the house until the owners freak out and decide that something must be done. All old jokes and clichés are there, and the whole effort is in such poor taste that only the most simple minded will watch through to the end.

If you're fed up with football, try another sport. The French Tennis Open Finals are available, as well as international rugby with Scotland and New Zealand, the latest Grand Prix racing and some pro-celebrity golf.

Look out for three long awaited blockbusters which will be released during Eid! The latest from Tom Hanks, Dudley Moore and Sean Connery should all be available early next week.

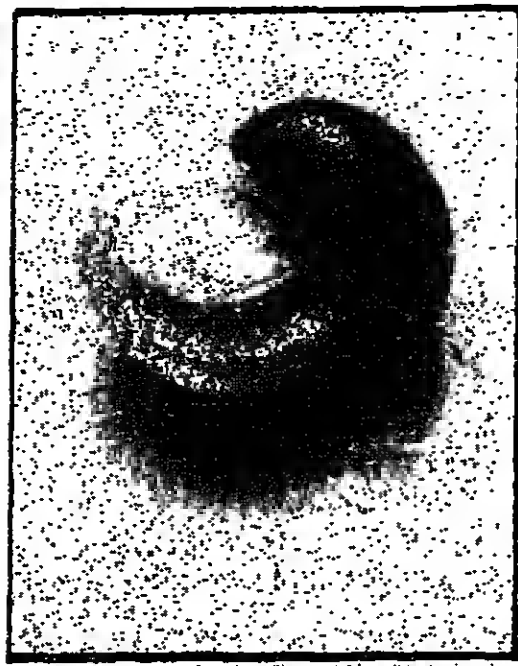


The Krays, twin trouble.

New products



Christofle: Christofle, Paris, recently introduced "Love at first sight" presents and gift items, ranging from silver-plated metal and black Chinese key chains, atomisers and ashtrays for "him and her" to silverware, dishes, centrepieces, candelabras and china.



Hydra Perles: Yves Saint Laurent Research and Development Centre has developed a new cream to protect and moisturise the skin. Called Hydra Perles it is said to guard the skin against light, smoke, dust and bacteria.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Al Raqqash Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil
Al Salmiya
Close until July 13
Al Hamra
Al Raqqash Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Starring: Mustafa Murwal, Salah Qabil, Nabila Obaid
Al Falaheen Ahham (Arabic)
Starring: Saeed Salem, Hayatim
Al Firdous
Dost Garibon Ka (Hindi)
Starring: Govinda, Neelam Fahadhai Open-Air
Shriman Shrimati (Hindi)
Al Fahadhai
Biroha Betha (Bengali)

Al Jahra
Eyb Ya Rustom (Arabic)
Granada
No Hard Feelings
Sulabikhat
Nair Saab (Malayalam)
Starring: Mammootty
Al Jeeb
Sheeshay Ka Ghar (Hindi)
Ahmad Drive-In
Hanafi Al Abahulu (Arabic)

FRIDAY
Al Jahra
Jackie and Bruce to the Rescue
Granada
Cyclone
Sulabikhat
In the Line of Duty
Al Jeeb
Desh Ke Dushman (Hindi)

WHAT'S ON

Social

Kapilku
July 5: Kapilku awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring, bookkeeping, basic accounts and basic computers courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Maurya Mohammad Tamano will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner. KD 3 per person. Proceeds will go toward the school fund.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 4839009; 4839889; 4843447.

Summer Belle '90
Aug 2: UGC will hold "Summer Belle '90" at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. Top Ranks and Hurricane Alley in attendance. More details later.

D'Assisi Association celebrates 10th anniversary
Oct 4: Holy mass at 6:30 pm at the Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait City, followed by a social at 8:30 pm at the Messilah Beach Hotel. For more details please contact Tel. No. 2469811/12 or 3717346 after 5:30 pm.

Weekend Club

July 2: The Weekend Club will hold "Red and Black Nite" at Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights include selection of the Red and Black Queen. The "Man of the Year" award will be announced. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones bands in attendance. Dress casual but strictly red and black combination. For details contact Julio Cardozo. Tel: 4315425; Hilary 5741380; Merces 4890566.

Natya Bharati
Natya Bharati calls amateur dramatists to audition for their fourth production entitled "Badi Baji" (The Big Aunt), a full-length comedy which will be performed in mid-October. Required a female lead, young smart lady, past stage experience would be an asset; two supporting actresses; character actors, a middle-aged man with a good personality and two young men in their early 30s. Genuinely interested people who plan to stay in Kuwait during summer holidays can contact 4880965 or 5623810 after 1.30 pm or 3721545 after 8.30 am for further details.

Beat show postponed
July 12: The Beat Festival, scheduled for July has been

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
9.40 Iftah Ya Simsim
10.10 Good Morning
10.30 Al Khitab: Arabic serial, starring: Oqar Al Hariri, Samiya Al Ali, Hussein Al Sharbini, Nabiel Al Dasouqi
11.15 News Summary
12.00 Hamoun Wa Tamouh: Arabic serial, part 5: featuring Samir Fahad, Ahmad Al Qawasini, Antoniet Najeib

1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
2.00 Sanavar: cartoon serial
2.30 Saif Haur: Gulf serial, featuring Saleh Bin Za'al Al Faris, Saud Al Darmiki, Amina Abdul Rasool
3.30 Alif Laila Wa Laila
4.00 Liqa Al Khamis
5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial
6.00 Report: From Egypt to Kuwait
6.30 Al Sandoog Al La'ali Kabir: ep. 2

7.30 Songs
7.45 With Islam
8.25 From People's Lives
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Uyoum Al Akhreen: Arabic serial, featuring Basi, Abu Bakr Ezzi, Hamdi Ahmad Abdul Aziz
11.00 Intchaar Muddearri: Taanvi: Arabic film, starring Hussain Fahmi, Afaf Shuaib, Hayatim
12.12 Late Night Variety Show
1.30 News summary
1.35 World News via Satellite
1.50 Holy Quran/Closedown

FRIDAY

9.00 Holy Quran
9.25 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
9.50 Ta'leem Kharij Al Madrasah: part two
10.15 Songs
10.30 Al Rahlah: children's serial, starring Safa Al Subei, Ahmad Abdul Waris
11.00 Ahadith Mauduwa
11.05 Friday Prayer
12.30 Colours
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.25 Hadith Deeni: religious talk
2.00 Halaqat Tameeliya: "Tanateel" part 3, starring: Ghanem Shait, Huda Hussein, Abdul Aziz Al Jassim

2.45 Cultural film
3.30 Arabic play
6.00 Cultural programme
7.30 Kuwait In A Week
8.00 Multaki Al Usrah: cultural programme, part 3
8.45 Hadith Usbook: religious programme
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Ayoun Al Akhreen: Arabic serial
10.45 Variety
11.00 Late Night Entertainment
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite
12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown



Huda Hussein in Tanateel, KTV 1, Friday.



Bill Cosby Show, Thursday, KTV 2.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Police Academy: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts, illusions and scientific experiments
7.00 Wild America: "Cotton-Tails & Kin. A look at rabbits the most found all over the world. It is hunted for its meat and fur and generally quickly."
7.30 The Munsters Today: "The Trial". Herman is accused of causing harm to a man whom he actually tried to help.

8.00 News in English
8.30 Haj and Omra. A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.
9.00 Midnight Caller
10.00 Bill Cosby Show: "Not Everybody Loves Blues"
10.30 Just for Laughs: Scenes from British comic films.
11.00 Thursday Night Movie: "The Red River". Starring James Arness, Bruce Boxleitner, Gregory Harrison, Western.
12.30 News in Brief
12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Popeye and Son: A cartoon series for children.

6.30 Family Feature Film
8.00 News in English
8.30 Haj and Omra: focus on the pilgrimages to Mekkah and Madinah
9.10 Breaking Away: a look at what's on in Kuwait
9.25 Globe TV: A Ticket to the World. A look at the "global village"
10.00 Weekend Programme: local magazine show, presented by "Adeeb Shuaib and Mubashir Motawi. Produced by KTV
10.30 Hoopman: Hoopman's girlfriend requests him to get rid of his dog.
11.00 Hans Brinker or The Silver Skates: The story of a talented painter who finds true love and wealth and wants to abandon his sick father.
12.00 World Cup: Special Report. Presented by Ali Khayat.
12.30 News in Brief
12.35 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Sport TV Ch. 6/45

3.40 Opening
3.45 Daily report on Wimbledon tennis tournament.
4.45 Highlights of World Cup soccer '90.
5.50 Daily report on tennis.
7.05 Special report on soccer.

Please note that Kuwaiti television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



Plaque of Appreciation

Stelani Bagyura, second secretary, Austrian Embassy, was presented with a plaque of appreciation for supporting the Kuwait International Hotel Bagyura leaves Kuwait shortly to take up a new post. The hotel's general manager Hermann Simon presented the plaque in the presence of A.R. Al Naibari, assistant director general, Ports Public Authority, and Nola Anderson, exhibitions manager, Exhibitions International.

New Home

The Bangladesh Ambassador has changed his residence. His new address is House No. 20, Street No. 2, Block 4, Mishref. His new telephone number is 538-2824.

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Asr 3.25 pm
Maghreb 6.51 pm
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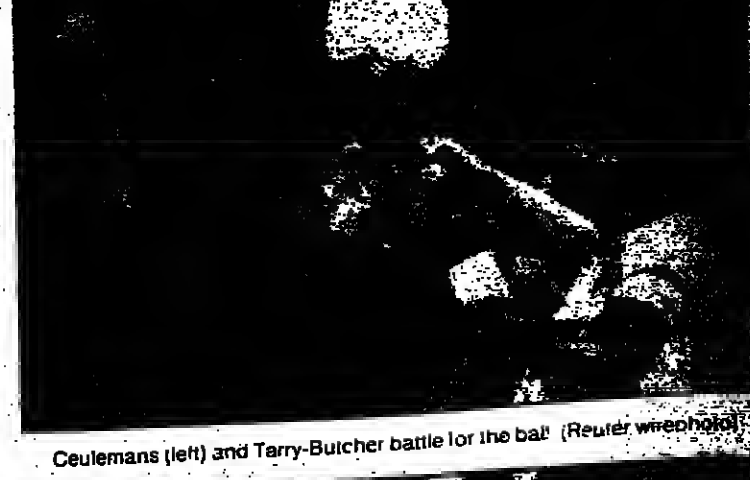
Platt celebrates his extra time goal. (Reuters wirephoto)



England's Steve Bull (left) congratulates Platt. (Reuters wirephoto)



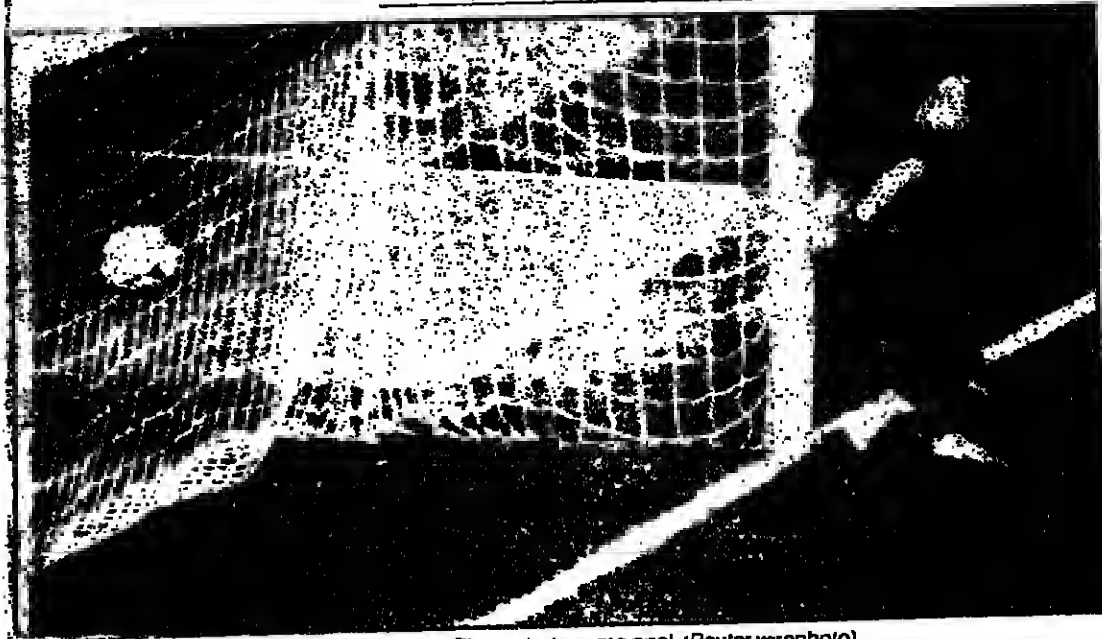
Shilton (left) consoles Preud'Homme after the game. (Reuters wirephoto)



Ceulemans (left) and Tarry-Butcher battle for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Platt sends England through

Belgium fail to break 55-year jinx



Preud'Homme watches Platt's shot go into goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

BOLOGNA, June 27. (Reuters) Substitute David Platt scored a minute from the end of extra time yesterday to send England into the World Cup quarterfinals with a 1-0 win over Belgium.

Platt hammered a right-foot volley past Belgian Goalkeeper Michel Preud'Homme from a Paul Gascoigne free-kick.

It was his first goal for England, the 100th of the Italy finals, and produced a dramatic climax to a hotly-contested match.

England met Cameroon in the last eight in Naples on Sunday. Belgium were desperately unlucky. They provided much of the best attacking soccer in an enthralling and at times abrasive game, but were unable to end a 55-year run without a victory against England.

Platt's goal provided a stunning and unexpected end to a match played in a rousing and at times intimidating atmosphere with the now-familiar hum of helicopters overhead and fans erupting into violence behind one goal.

But the ugly scenes were overshadowed by England's winner which was created entirely by the energy and imagination of Gascoigne.

The effervescent midfielder, who struggled to control his territory in a personal duel with Belgian playmaker Enzo Scifo, found unexpected reserves of energy and surged forward when everyone else was resigned to a penalty shoot-out.

The run took him to the edge of the Belgian penalty area where he was pushed by the trailing Eric Gerets.

Gascoigne rose and took the kick himself, lofting it over the tired Belgian defence towards Platt who swivelled on his left foot and thundered a perfect right-foot volley past the surprised Preud'Homme.

Extra-time followed the same pattern as the previous deadlocked 90 minutes with both sides, by this stage ragged and tired, slugging it out like punch-drunk boxers.

Chris Waddle produced one flash of skill for England and a shot well saved by Preud'Homme, then Belgian Bruno Versavel saw a well-struck effort go wide. Several other efforts by both sides flew around goal.

The best opening of the extra period fell to England when Stuart Pearce made a strong run on the left, fed substitute Steve Bull, who cut in to power a low right-foot shot which the goalkeeper just touched away for a corner.

It was an evenly-contested and physically-combative match from the start when Belgium took early command by flooding midfield and launching their overlapping defenders on a series of runs.

Michel de Wolf and Versavel were particularly dangerous for the Belgians on the left and the England defence was frequently stretched to the limit.

Belgium might have taken the lead as early as the 15th minute when their veteran captain Jan Ceulemans took advantage of a slip by England winger Mark Wright and fired in a first-time drive which rebounded into play of Peter Shilton's right hand post.

It was not the only time England were saved by the woodwork. It came to their rescue again shortly after half-time when the impressive Scifo surged out of midfield and hit a tremendous shot which beat Shilton but flew to safety off his right hand post.

In between, however, England produced plenty of attacking soccer of their own with Waddle in particularly good form on the right as the team broke quickly from defence.

During the period before the interval, Waddle twice dribbled into space and forced openings. From the first centre, left-back Stuart Pearce headed on to the roof of the net and from the second John Barnes wasted the clearest opening of the half by shooting tamely at Preud'Homme.

Barnes was unlucky again a few minutes later when he was adjudged offside after converting a cross from Gary Lineker.

As the second half of normal time wore on, it became increasingly clear that both sides were not prepared to risk all despite the introduction of two substitutes by England and one by the Belgians.



Scifo steps over England's Des Walker. Right: Belgium's Michel Preud'Homme (left) slips on a kick by Gascoigne. (Reuters wirephotos)



Scifo steps over England's Des Walker. Right: Belgium's Michel Preud'Homme (left) slips on a kick by Gascoigne. (Reuters wirephotos)



Waddle leads over Belgium's Bruno Versavel. Right: England's Mark Wright (left) jumps to intercept a pass. (Reuters wirephotos)



Waddle leads over Belgium's Bruno Versavel. Right: England's Mark Wright (left) jumps to intercept a pass. (Reuters wirephotos)

Moynihan condemns Cup riots

BOLOGNA, June 27. (Reuters) English Minister Colin Moynihan yesterday condemned a riot by English World Cup football fans in Bologna, and said they had damaged the cause of English football.

But the Sports Minister Colin Moynihan said rioters involved in the World Cup football fans' riot in Bologna, and said they had damaged the cause of English football.

Moynihan said the rioters' behaviour was "entirely unacceptable" and that the British government would not tolerate such behaviour, he said.

Italy yesterday arranged a special charter flight to deport 247 English supporters rounded up on Monday night in the Adriatic resort of Rimini after rioting battles with police in which 20 people were injured.

The rioting erupted in a seafront bar packed with England fans, some of whom began throwing glasses and bottles at passing cars when Italians poured on to the streets to celebrate Italy's 2-0 second round victory against Uruguay.

In a separate interview, Moynihan said there had been some suggestions that Italians had provoked the English fans. But he added:

"The future of English football in terms of club competition in Europe is on trial at the World Cup and when you are provoked you must walk away from that provocation."

The future of English football in terms of club competition in Europe is on trial at the World Cup and when you are provoked you must walk away from that provocation."



An English fan being searched by policemen. (Reuters wirephoto)



David Platt kicks the ball towards the Belgium net. (Reuters wirephoto)

Italy will reach final: Sosa

ROME, June 27. (Reuters) Italy's abundance of talent and coach Azeglio Vicini's knack of picking substitutes paid off again when the three times champions reached the quarterfinals of the World Cup.

"I don't think they will have problems reaching the final," said Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa after the South Americans' 2-0 defeat by Italy in the second round on Monday.

"They are a strong team, determined and full of individual talent."

His team mate Ruben Pereira agreed. "Italy will get to the final," he said. "For me they are stronger than the 1982 side."

Little Sicilian striker Salvatore Schillaci is already being compared to the hero of the 1982 World Cup winning side, Paolo Rossi, after scoring three goals in four matches.

It was Schillaci who broke the deadlock against a defensive Uruguay but it was second half substitute Aldo Serena who gave him the means.

"The merit goes to Serena," said Schillaci who picked up a fine pass from his team mate to turn and score with his left foot in the 65th minute.

Serena, marking his 30th birthday and his first appearance at these finals, completed a superb performance by heading home Italy's second goal, from a free-kick by Giuseppe Giannini, in the 83rd minute.

Serena was sent on for Nicola Berti, whose second yellow card meant he was automatically suspended for Saturday's quarterfinal in Rome against Ireland, who beat Romania on a penalty shoot-out on Monday.

But such is the depth of talent in the Italian side, who have not conceded a goal in eight months, that they may not even miss Berti.

Serena proved he could compete with the best and if Roberto Donadoni recovers from a twisted knee by Saturday the Italian midfield will welcome back their most important player.

Vicini's talent for picking the right moment had already been demonstrated in the first round when Schillaci came on late against Austria to replace the off-form Andrea Carnevale and scored the game's only goal four minutes later.

By Saturday Vicini could have yet another ace in his pack — Sampdoria striker Gianluca Vialli.

"If Vialli and Donadoni recover well and Italy go on in the competition there could be an advantage for us," said Vicini, explaining that some of his other players were tired after the second round victory over Uruguay.

"Their training with the others has been very positive and it seems likely that they will be fully fit tomorrow but we will only know for sure after tomorrow's training," said Vicini.

Vialli, once the nation's best striker but blunted first by a loss of form and then by a thigh injury, has not played since Italy's second match in the group stage, against the United States.

Student centre refuses to sell Cup tickets

ROME, June 27. (Reuters) A Rome student organisation which sold thousands of World Cup tickets said it will refuse to distribute any more in protest at steep price hikes.

The CTS (Students and Young People Centre) said after selling 2,000 places for Monday's Italy-Uruguay match. "We will not sell tickets for the later matches. Since the qualification by the Italian team there has been an irrational increase in the price of tickets."

Enthusiasm at Italy's confident march through the World Cup finals so far has gripped the country and travel agents as well as ticket touts are doing a good trade.

Prices

CTS said it made only a small profit on the tickets and was forced to pass on inflated prices to soccer fans. It sold the cheapest tickets, with a face value of 18,000 lire (\$15) for 50,000 lire (\$41).

Ticket touts are reported to be asking three million lire (\$2,400) for tickets for the Rome final of the World Cup on July 8 — 15 times the official price.

Prices have also been inflated by offering gifts like sunglasses, a watch and a travel bag with the tickets.

Places for Monday's Italy-Uruguay match with a face value of 70,000 lire (\$57) were being sold for as much as 400,000 lire (\$325) in special packages.

Yugoslav hero runs news conference too

VERONA, June 27. (Reuters) Looking suitably cool in trendy sunglasses, Yugoslav soccer hero Dragan Stojkovic fielded post-match questions about his satisfaction with ease.

"It is up to you to judge whether I am as good as Maradona... and you'll soon get the chance," Stojkovic said yesterday a few minutes after sending Spain tumbling out of the World Cup with two magnificent goals.

Yugoslavia, through to the quarterfinals for the first time since 1962, will play Diego Maradona's Argentina on Saturday.

Stojkovic, blond, youthful and with more than a hint of arrogance in his play and manner, almost single-handedly won the match.

His first goal involved a Puskas-style dragging back of the ball before calmly shooting

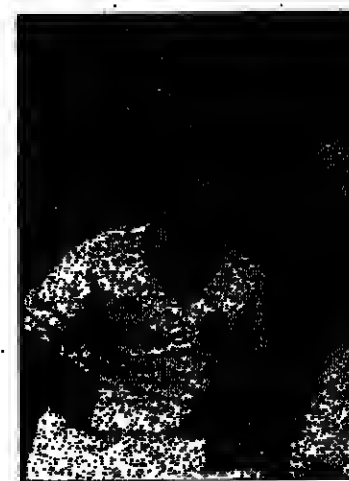
home, while the "second was one of his specialties — a delightfully flighted free-kick from about 25 metres."

Such rare skills have ensured his departure from the financial backwater of Red Star Belgrade to the multi-million-dollar lifestyle of Marseille in the French League.

"Those two goals were undoubtedly among the most important I have ever scored," he said, taking over the normal captain's role in the post-match news conference.

In fact manager Ivica Osim, refusing to answer questions, let his star charge run the news show much as he runs the play on the field.

"Perhaps fortune indeed favours the brave," Stojkovic replied with quotable flourish to suggestions that Spain were unlucky and that their domination of the match deserved better than extra-time defeat.



Yugoslavia's Davor Josik (right) and Zlatko Juric celebrate their team's second goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

Riedle set to replace Voeller

ERBA, Italy, June 27. (Reuters) Karlheinz Riedle is set to replace Rudi Voeller in the West German lineup to face Czechoslovakia in the World Cup quarterfinals in Milan next Sunday.

West German officials yesterday hoped they could overturn Fila's rejection of their protest against Voeller's dismissal in Sunday's second round clash with the Netherlands.

But team chief Franzj Beckenbauer said Riedle, who came on as a second-half substitute in the 2-1 win over the Dutch, would play if there were no reprieve for Voeller.

Riedle joined Werder Bremen when Voeller left the club for Roma. He will move to Roma himself next season to join Roma's local rivals Lazio.

"If I don't get picked in this situation, I may as well pack my bags now," Riedle said.

Beckenbauer described Riedle as an excellent player, who was good in the air and operated more in the middle than Voeller himself more of a runner who took wide paths to goal.

Beckenbauer said midfielder Thomas Haessler was the only member of his squad unavailable through injury.

Haessler, who missed the Dutch game because of a groin injury, would have to be patient and follow the example of central defender Juergen Kohler, Beckenbauer said.

Kohler missed all three first round matches because of a knee muscle injury but returned against the Netherlands.

World Cup second round matches: low on quality, high on heartbreak

ROME, June 27. (AP) The second round of the World Cup was low on quality but had plenty of heartbreak to go round.

Brazil, Belgium and Colombia all dominated their matches — hitting the woodwork no less than six times in all. Still all were sent home as upsets continued to capture the essence of the tournament.

Argentina, Cameroon and

England all used rare sparkles of creativity near the end of their matches to reach the quarterfinals.

Cameroon and Ireland, tipped to be sent home in the first round, continued their string of upsets and joined powerhouses Italy and West Germany in the big times.

Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia were also not expected to go this far in the competition but they increasingly

loom large as dark horses. Cameroon plays England, Argentina faces Yugoslavia, West Germany takes on Czechoslovakia and Ireland goes against home favourite Italy this weekend before the championship heads into its final week.

"For the Irish to be in Rome is like a dream come true for our country," said David O'Leary, who scored the deciding penalty in the World Cup's

first shootout after Ireland's match with Romania finished in a goal-less draw.

Czechoslovakia's Tomas Skuhravy had a dream match against Costa Rica and scored a hat-trick in a 4-1 win to lead the World Cup scoring table with five goals.

But close on his heels is Roger Milla, 38, Cameroon's super substitute who scored twice in extra time

to give Africa its first World Cup quarterfinalist ever with a 2-1 win over Colombia.

The talent of Yugoslavia's Dragan Stojkovic finally broke through with two goals to beat Spain 2-1.

The clash between arch rivals the Netherlands and West Germany was by far the best match.

In a seesaw battle, striker Juergen Klinsmann and defender Andreas

Brehme came through with class to play to win the gritty clash 2-1. Brilliant goals flowed from the feet of Salvatore Schillaci to give Italy a 2-0 win over Uruguay and David Platt elinched a dramatic goal in the dying minute of extra time with a turning volley to push England past Belgium 1-0.

But despite all these heroics too often play in regulation time was a

ripping yawn. Cameroon-Colombia, Romania-Ireland, Brazil-Argentina and Spain-Yugoslavia rarely presented good soccer to capture the crowds.

The Netherlands, spoiled by an excess of talent, failed to win a match in the World Cup; and Brazil, promising on spectacle to achieve results, finished up with neither.

LANCILLA

Olympic movement slammed

TORONTO, June 27. (Reuters): A Canadian government inquiry into drugs in sports slammed the Olympic movement yesterday for the widespread use of performance-enhancing drugs but left disgraced Olympian Ben Johnson some hope for a return to international competition.

The report of that inquiry also said there is a moral crisis in sports and drug-use is widespread among Canadian athletes.

The long-awaited report by Ontario judge Charles Dubin said the decision whether to allow disgraced Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson — banned for using drugs — to compete again should be left to sport administrators.

Johnson, 27, is serving a two-year ban from international competition after testing positive for steroids at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 following his victory in the 100 metres. He was subsequently stripped of his medal.

The Canadian government, which had banned Johnson for life, had been awaiting the report by Ontario judge Charles Dubin before deciding whether Johnson can run again for Canada.

"Those who cheated have threatened the very future of sport and tarnished its reputation, perhaps irreparably."

"They have also unfairly cast a cloud of suspicion over the majority of athletes who abide by the rules and have threatened their future financial support from governments, corporations and the general public," the report said.

Dubin said it was clear Johnson had used anabolic steroids for many years but was not fully aware of the health risks involved.

Whether he can compete again should be decided by the Olympic movement and the national track and field association Athletics Canada.

But the ban on government training subsidies should continue although Johnson has the right to appeal that punishment to an independent arbitrator.

Top athletes to compete in Games

INDIANAPOLIS, June 27. (AP): World record-holders and Olympic champions Carl Lewis, Roger Kingdom and Jackie Joyner-Kersey are among the top United States track and field athletes who will compete in the Goodwill Games.

Lewis, a six-time Olympic gold medalist and holder of the world record in the 100-metre dash, will be in the 100 and long jump. He will represent the United States in the 100, for which he qualified by winning the national title this month at Norwalk, California.

Lewis will be an invited athlete in the long jump. In the Goodwill Games, an invited athlete in an event competes only as an individual.

Lewis declined a position on the 400-metre relay team.

Kingdom, a two-time Olympic champion and world record-holder in the 110-metre high hurdles, also made the team by winning the national championship.

Joyner-Kersey, the 1988 Olympic gold medalist in the heptathlon and long jump and world record-holder in the heptathlon, qualified for the US team in the long jump by winning the national title. However, she passed up that event in the Goodwill Games and will compete in the heptathlon, the Athletics Congress said yesterday.

Two other individual Olympic gold medalists made the US team at the Nationals. Steve Lewis, winner at 400 metres in the 1988 Olympics at Seoul and this year at Norwalk, will compete in that event and as a member of the 1,600-metre relay team. Evelyn Ashford, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist and former world record-holder in the women's 100 metres, made the team for the 400-metre relay.

Each team member receives \$3,000. Olympic gold medalists get another \$10,000 and world record-holders are paid another \$10,000.

Wellington rally to defeat Britain

WELLINGTON, June 27. (Reuters): Wellington, trailing 8-22 at half-time, came back to score their first ever victory over a rugby league international touring side when they beat Britain 30-22 today.

It was Britain's third defeat by a provincial side on their New Zealand tour, but they lead the national team 1-0 in the three-match Test series after an 11-0 victory on Sunday.

Intermittent rain made handling difficult in the first half, but the tourists appeared unworried, running in tries with Karl Fairbank, Ian Smales, Jonathan Davies and David Lyon.

Lamb hammers unbeaten 84 England-Kiwis Test ends in draw

LONDON, June 27. (Reuters): England vice-captain Allan Lamb hit 84 not out yesterday as the rain-interrupted second cricket Test ended in a predictable draw.

Lamb's 13th Test half-century contained 14 fours and one six but it is not an innings that will linger in the memory. A high percentage of his runs came from the occasional off-spin of Andrew Jones and the equally friendly medium-pace of Ken Rutherford.

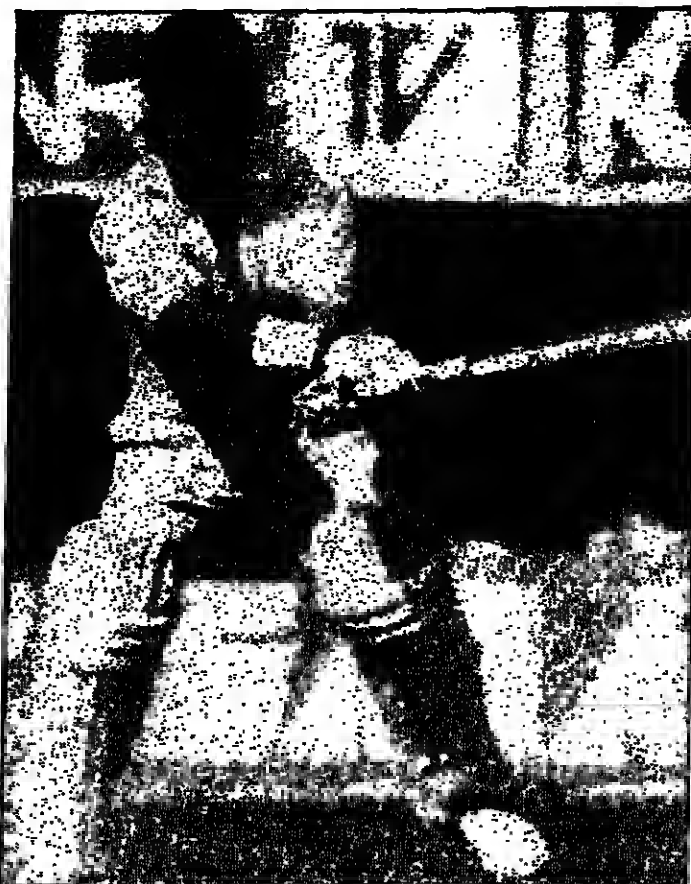
As the afternoon became increasingly meaningless, ironically in the best weather of the match, England declared their second innings at 272 for four 10 minutes before the scheduled close and the match was called off. New Zealand had earlier closed their first innings at 462 for nine, a lead of 128.

Two strike bowlers at different ends of their Test careers gave the fifth day most of what little interest it held.

England's Devon Malcolm gave further evidence that he is the fast bowler England have been searching for since Bob Willis retired six years ago with the second-five-wicket haul of his embryonic Test career.

Jamaican-born Malcolm showed not only hostile pace but also inevitable stamina and vastly improved accuracy, bowling 43 overs in all to finish with five for 94.

In contrast to some England opening bowlers of recent vintage, Malcolm was always eager to bowl and was still bounding in with undiminished enthusiasm on the final morning.



Lamb hit 14 fours and a six

Then, Richard Hadlee in his final appearance at cricket's headquarters, gave another consummate display of seam and swing bowling.

Hadlee gave Michael Atherton a searching examination with the new ball as the England

opener sought the run he needed to avoid his second duck of the match.

First Hadlee had Atherton caught behind by Ian Smith, only to find that the umpire had called a no ball. Then Atherton again nibbled outside the off-stump

but Smith could not hold the chance.

Hadlee had some compensation when he sent Graham Gooch's off-stump flying with his ninth delivery after lunch but retired from the fray soon afterwards. He did not take the field after tea, opting instead to visit the physiotherapist.

Atherton recovered from his ordeal to score 54 before he had the dubious distinction of entering the record books as Jones's first Test victim.

With the first two Tests having been drawn, the third and final match at Edgbaston beginning on July 5 could decide the series.

Gooch was confirmed as England's captain for the rest of the season yesterday — and then admitted that his side's performance during the draw against New Zealand at Lord's was under par.

Gooch will stay in charge for the two one-day internationals and three full Tests against India as well as the final clash with New Zealand at Edgbaston.

But the Essex opener, appointed England captain towards the end of last year, was clearly dissatisfied with England's overall showing at Lord's.

"Our performance was not as good as we would have liked, either batting or bowling," he said. "Not good enough to beat New Zealand, anyway."

"There is always room for improvement and we'll need to be on top form if we want to win at Edgbaston and take the series."

Despite his disappointment, the England selectors remain

delighted with Gooch's style of leadership.

"It has been keenly positive throughout and we will be well served by his captaincy for the rest of the season," they said in a statement after the drawn second Test.

Scoreboard
ENGLAND first innings 334 (G Gooch 85, R Smith 64, A Stewart 54; D Morrison 4-64)
NEW ZEALAND first innings (over-

night 440-8)
T. Franklin c Russell b Malcolm... 101
J. Wright c Stewart b Small... 98
A. Jones c Stewart b Malcolm... 49
M. Crowe c Russell b Hemmings... 1
M. Grealbatch b Malcolm... 47
K. Rutherford c Fairbrother b Malcolm... 0
R. Hadlee b Hemmings... 86
J. Bracewell run out... 4
I. Smith c Small b Malcolm... 27
M. Snedden not out... 13
D. Morrison not out... 12
Extras (12 lb-15 w-2 nb-5)... 34
Total (for nine wickets, declared) 462
Wicketfalls: 1-185 2-278 3-281 4-284 5-285 6-408 7-415 8-425 9-448.
Bowling: Malcolm 43-14-94-5, Small 35-4-127-1, DePrez 35-4-112-0, Hemmings 30-19-67-2, Gooch 13-7-25-2, Atherton 1-1-0-0.

ENGLAND second innings
G. Gooch b Hadlee... 37
M. Atherton c Bracewell b Jones... 54
A. Stewart c sub b Bracewell... 42
A. Lamb not out... 64
R. Smith hit wicket b Bracewell... 0
N. Fairbrother not out... 33
Extras (18 lb-8 ob-61)... 22
Total (for four wickets, declared) 272
Fall of wickets: 1-88 2-135 3-171 4-175.
Bowling: Morrison 16-0-81-0, Hadlee 13-2-32-1, Bracewell 34-13-85-2, Jones 12-3-40-1, Rutherford 3-0-16-0.

Result: match drawn.
First Test: Match drawn.
Third Test: July 5-10, Birmingham (at Edgbaston).

France make seven changes for 3rd Test

SYDNEY, June 27. (Reuters): Team coach Jacques Fouroux today made seven changes to France's team for the third and final Test against Australia but promised to continue playing spectacular rugby union.

France have already lost the series after going down 48-31 to the Wallabies in Brisbane in a thrilling second Test featuring 10 tries.

"Fouroux has completely restructured his pack for the Sydney Test next Saturday. The whole front row has been 'sacked', while Philippe Benetton returns at breakaway in place of South Africa-born Eric Melville who moves to number eight."

Replaced Jean-Claude Langlade returns to the centre instead of Franck Mesnel, who replaced him for the second Test. Philippe Saint-Andre, normally a centre, will play on the wing in place of Bernard Lacombe while Aubin Hueber comes in at scrum half.

"There are no injury problems, the changes are just our logic," said Fouroux with a smile. "We want to try to get rid of the mistakes from the previous Test but we still want to play a spectacular game... that's our primary aim."

"We brought over a lot of young players and the team for Saturday is a combination of the past and future."

Cycling race
STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 27. (AP): Sweden's Michael Andersson yesterday won the first stage in the six-day Tour of Vanern cycling race ahead of a group of 11 cyclists.

Andersson was clocked at three hours, 52 minutes and 1 second in the 169-kilometre (104-mile) race, with fellow-Swede Lars Wahlqvist trailing him by six seconds.

Suhail hopes for a top five finish

ISTANBUL, June 27. (Reuters): Dubai Suhail Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum will start his first ever European championship rally sixth off the grid in his Marlboro-backed Group A Mitsubishi Galant in this week's European Championship Rally in Turkey.

First off the ramp will be Mohammed Bin Sulayem the event favourite who finished runner-up here in 1988.

"Maybe it's a high seeding for my first European event, but I will do my very best to finish in sixth place if not better, stated a cautiously optimistic Khalifa."

"The Galant is running perfectly and I have a very good co-driver in Bobby Willis."

Twelve European nations along with the two Emiratis drivers make up the seventy-four entries for the Turkish event, which starts tomorrow at 6.00 pm.

900 kilometres and twenty-four special stages later the cars will return to the finish of the event in the mystical Turkish city of Istanbul.

This event marks Suhail's third outing in the VR4 Mitsubishi Galant. So far he has started in two Middle East Championship rallies, the Qatar and Jordan International. Although he did not finish in Qatar last February his excellent performance saw him take the quickest time in seven of the eleven special stages he completed. In Jordan he was second overall behind Mohammed Bin Sulayem.

"The Galant and Toyota seem to be the best cars in this event as far as technology is concerned," said Mike Oty of Ralliart Middle East. "There are some very fast vehicles entered, but for example the Lancia Integrals are not current modern cars and have been around for a few seasons."

"Obviously Mohammed is the favourite here and therefore some very fast French and Turkish drivers, but I will be hoping for a

top 5 finish. Our real objective is to let Suhail have some solid European experience, but that result would be good," concluded team boss Oty.

Team navigator Bobby Willis, who partnered Suhail's brother Ahmed in the 1989 Scottish Rally, has been in Turkey two weeks ahead of the team and has



Suhail Bin Khalifa

completed a comprehensive survey of the route. "It is a loose gravel surface and very different to the Massi style stages which Suhail performs best on, but I have seen his Jordan result from last month and think he could do well," said the popular Irishman.

"As well as the Marlboro-backed Group A Galant, Ralliart Middle East have built a Group N Galant for leading Turkish driver Rene Kocibey, the first time a Middle East rally team has prepared a vehicle for a European Championship driver."

"This is the first of a number of orders we have received from Europe," said team technical manager Jan Lindstrom.

Because the surface in Turkey is one hundred per cent gravel, the team have flown in special compound Michelin tyres for the event. Suhail's entry to Turkey is also supported by BP Middle East and Standard Chartered Bank.

Strange scores two-stroke victory

PITTSBURGH, June 27. (AP): Curtis Strange overcame an aching back yesterday to shoot a second-round 69 and post a two-stroke victory over David Frost in the \$647,000 Family House Invitational, the nation's richest exhibition golf tournament.

Strange, who shot a course-record 65 Monday at St Clair Country Club, finished with a 10-under-par of 65-69-134. Frost shot a second-round 66 to finish eight under at 136.

Strange, a two-time US Open champion, won a

first-prize check of \$125,000 in his first tournament victory since capturing the 1989 US Open at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York.

Strange nearly pulled out of the two-day tournament Sunday night because of back pain, but said, "making a lot of long putts made me feel a whole lot better."

Mike Hulbert, shot a one-under 71 to finish alone in third at 67-71-138. John Cook and Larry Mize also shot 71s and tied for fourth at 139.

Profile

The Arab Times will profile teams taking part in the 2nd Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) on every Thursday. Today's team is Pizza Italia.

THE Pizza Italia basketball team is one of the 20 participating squads in the on-going TRICO/KPBL '90 2nd-Congress All-Filipino Men's League. Fancied as one of the teams who will advance to the next round of competitions, the Pizza Makers are composed of the following: Players — Romy Alojado, Ferdie De La Cruz, Jing Pantulgo, Francis Buenavidez, Edgardo Hufano, Medz Nicado, Wally Cortez, Jess Pingol, Benjie Maniti, Bojie Gabriel, Abad Quintero, Raffy Perez, Noie Tumangday, Ermie Nimedez, coach-Jing Ramos, assistant coach-Nicanor De La Cruz, team manager — Chawki E. Barakat, Team Muse — Ms. Rosale Austria and team representative-Florentino Zapata.

Romeo "Romy" Alojado is the team captain of the Pizza Makers. Playing the guard position, he stands 5'5" tall, weighs 125lbs, 32 years old and hails from Catabla Beach-Talisay Negros Occidental. Better known for his long-range sniping abilities, he has been in Kuwait for 4 years and is currently a shop in-charge for the Pizza Italia/Arab Food Services Co.

Ferdie De La Cruz is 24 years old, 5'7" tall, weighs 166 lbs and is a Capricorn bachelor from Pio Del Pilar-Makati, Metro Manila. Also playing the guard position, he has been in Kuwait for almost 2 years and is presently a waiter for the Arab Food



Chawki Barakat

Services. Co. He lists down his hobbies as reading, radio listening, TV watching and making new friends.

Playing the forward position, Jing Pantulgo is 26 years old, 5'8 1/2" tall, weighs 150 lbs., and comes from the City of Manila. Also known for his outside shooting skills, this one-time 3-point shootout finalist has been in Kuwait for almost 2 years, and is also a shop in-charge for the Pizza Italia.

Franco "Francis" Benavidez is also a shop in charge for the Pizza Italia food chain. A Gemini bachelor, he is 26 years old, 5'7" tall, weighs 140 lbs. and hails from Sampaloc, Metro Manila. He's been in Kuwait for the past 2-1/2 years.

Slotman Edgar Juliebert Hufano is 6'1" tall, weighs 150 lbs., is 23 years of age, and hails from Ilocos Sur. Still a bachelor, this food service worker of the Pizza Italia-Shaab is the newest addition to the Filipino basketball scenario in Kuwait.

Diomedes "Medz" Nicdao is 32 years old, stands 5'7" tall,



The Pizza Italia squad.

weighs 145 lbs., and hails from Mabalacat, Pampanga. Playing the guard-forward positions, he has been in Kuwait for almost 6 years, and is currently the shop in-charge of the Pizza Italia Fahed Al Salem St outlet.

Romualdo "Wally" Cortez is 33 years old, stands 5'11" tall, weighs 130 lbs., and hails from Manila. This Gemini bachelor has been in Kuwait for 4 years, and is presently with the Al Imad Real Estate Co. Maintenance Division.

Jess Pingol is 31 years old, 5'9" tall, weighs 120 lbs., and also comes from Manila. He's been in Kuwait for 1 1/2 years, and is currently a building maintenance man for the Al-Imad Real Estate Co.

Benjamin "Benjie" Maniti plays the forward/guard positions for the Pizza Makers. A 27-year-old Pisces bachelor, he stands 5'7 1/2" tall, weighs 125

lbs., and comes from Parian-Mexico, Pampanga. He is new in Kuwait, and is a staff/waiter at the Pizza Italia-Riqqa outlet.

Bojie Gabriel is 28 years old, stands 5'9" tall, weighs 135 lbs., and comes from Pasay City, Metro Manila. Playing the forward position, he has been in Kuwait for only 7 months, and is also with the Pizza Italia food chain as a food service worker.

Abadie "Abad" Quintero is a Virgo bachelor, who hails from Marikinaque. Playing the forward/guard positions, he is 26 years old, 5'7" tall, and weighs 155 lbs. Also a food service worker for the Pizza Italia food chain, he has been in Kuwait for 4 years, and regards swimming and billiards as his next loved past times after basketball.

Forward Raffy Perez is 27 years old, 5'8" tall, weighs 157 lbs., and comes from Muntinlupa, Metro Manila. He has been

in Kuwait for 4 years, and is currently a shop-in-charge for the Pizza Italia food chain.

Godofredo "Noie" Tumangday is 32 years old and plays the forward position for the Pizza Makers. He stands 5'5" tall, weighs 120 lbs., and comes from Manila. This Scorpio bachelor has been in Kuwait for the last 6 years, and is currently a shop in-charge for the Pizza Italia Salmiya outlet.

Ermie "Ermie" Nimedez plays the guard/forward positions and comes from Manila. He is a 23-year-old Leo who stands 5'5" tall, and has been in Kuwait for 2 1/2 years as a service food staff for the Pizza Italia food chain.

Coach Jing Ramos is 35 years old, stands 5'9" tall, weighs 140 lbs., and comes from Manila. He has been in Kuwait for the past 4 years and is presently a shop in-charge for the Pizza Italia food



Philip Tufnell



John Emburey

Middlesex score 3rd straight victory

LONDON, June 27. (Reuters): Middlesex spinners John Emburey and Philip Tufnell took their side to the top of the English county championship yesterday as they set up a 79-run win over Northamptonshire at Luton.

With Tufnell taking five for 57 and Emburey three for 80, Northants were shot out for 172 as Mike Gatting's in-form team chalked up a third successive victory to overtake Warwickshire.

Only Robert Bailey, with a battling 87 to follow his first innings 73, offered real resistance.

Middlesex had earlier declared at 107 for two after a first innings total of 344. Northants notched up 200 in its first innings.

Warwickshire paceman Alan Donald did his best to keep his side in the driving seat with three wickets in a five-ball burst against Kent at Edgbaston. It reduced Kent, set to make 233, to 76 for five, but Graham Cowdrey and Richard Ellison held out for a draw.

Warwickshire captain Dermot Reeve had made an unbeaten 59 in his side's 190 for eight declared.

Jonathan Agnew, with five wickets for 70, spearheaded a Leicestershire win over Gloucestershire, but his side's eagerness as they forced a 111-run success upset umpires Allan Jones and Don Thompson.

Leicestershire captain Nigel Briers was told by Jones to quieten his players, who had reacted loudly to Phil Bainbridge twice surviving hard chances in a defiant three hour innings.

And paceman Winston Benjamin disputed Thompson's rejection of a leg before appeal and appeared to jab an angry finger at him.

Jones said after the match that the Leicestershire players' behaviour would not be reported to cricketing authorities.

"It was a competitive match and things got a little out of hand, but were quickly put right," he said.

Results
At Gloucester: Leicestershire beat Gloucestershire by 111 runs. Leicestershire 426 for eight declared in 110 overs, second innings forfeited. Gloucestershire 75 for no wicket declared in 14 overs and 240. (P. Bainbridge 74, D. Grayveney 46 not out, J. Agnew 5-70). Leicestershire 20 points, Gloucestershire three.

At Old Trafford: Lancashire v Hampshire match drawn. Hampshire 300 for five declared in 99.4 overs and 87 for one declared. (C. Smith 53 not out). Lancashire 58 for no wicket declared in 12 overs and 131 for four. Lancashire two points, Hampshire four.

At Luton: Middlesex beat Northants by 79 runs. Middlesex 344 and 107 for two declared. (D. Haynes 69 not out, Northants 200 and 172, (R. Bailey 87, P. Tufnell 5-57). Middlesex 23 points, Northants three.

At Cardiff: Yorkshire beat Glamorgan by five wickets. Glamorgan 309 for six declared in 100 overs and 113 for two declared. Yorkshire 153 for three declared in 44 overs. (K. Sharp 53 not out, P. Robinson 53 not out) and 271 for 5. (R. Blakey 71 not out). Yorkshire 19 points, Glamorgan five.

At Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Kent, match drawn. Warwickshire 242 in 95.3 overs and 190 for eight declared. (D. Reeve 59 not out). Kent 200 for nine declared in 72.5 overs. (C. Cowdrey 56 not out). And 102 for five. Warwickshire six points, Kent six.

English County Championship cricket table after matches ending yesterday (tabulated — played, won, lost, drawn, batting bonus points, bowling bonus points):

Middlesex	9	5	0	4	26	20	126
Warwickshire	10	4	2	4	28	114	24
Hampshire	10	1	1	2	21	28	96
Lancashire	9	3	1	5	23	27	94
Leicestershire	10	3	5	2	29	17	94
Glamorgan	10	3	4	2	23	31	93
Derbyshire	9	3	3	3	27	15	89
Nottingham	9	3	1	4	20	22	90
Yorkshire	9	2	4	3	16	23	71
Somerset	10	1	8	1	31	29	67
Northants	8	1	1	6	18	15	65
Kent	8	2	2	4	22	10	64
Essex	8	1	1	6	30	9	55
Worcestershire	7	1	1	5	19	14	49
Surrey	8	1	1	6	18	15	47
Gloucestershire	8	1	3	4	16	17	47
Gloucester	9	0	5	3	18	19	37



Robert Bailey



Jonathan Agnew

Metro Manila. She stands 5'3" tall, weighs a well-distributed 56 kgs., and has been in Kuwait for the past 4 years. She is presently with the Sherin Optics Co as an optometrist. This doctor of Optometry degree holder from the Central Escolar University, Manila, bested 29 other beauties during the June 15 KPBL 2nd — conference opening day Ceremonies and was unanimously chosen as "Miss KPBL '90 2nd-Conference." Miss Canada Dry '87, PBAK Most Charming Muse '88, Miss Kuwait Regency Palace (KPBL '90), Miss FEB/City Int'l Ex. (Filcheck), and a whole lot more during her collegiate days. Besides being blessed with looks that could really make heads turn, she is also a gifted cook and baker, not to mention her well-known dancing prowess.

Schedule of games, Friday (June 29)
8.00 am Al Widad/Capecon v Trend Wave (GRP-B), 9.30 am Bisig/Mabuhay-Kamay v Kuwait Computer Association (GRP-A), 11.00 am Al Wale v National Industries Co. (GRP-B), 12.30 pm Hasawi v Kellogg Plants Services (GRP-A), 2.00 pm Kalexo v Nissan Al Bahrain (GRP-B), 3.30 pm Kuwait Regency Palace v Al Ghanim Freight &

SPORTS

Capriati makes Wimbledon history

Becker, Seles move into third round

WIMBLEDON, England, June 27. (AP) — Calm returned to Wimbledon today. After a day of uproar and upsets, top players led by defending champion Boris Becker and third-seed Monica Seles moved into the third round with relative ease.

Becker especially seemed to jerk the tournament back to normal, a day after seven seeds — including three-time champion John McEnroe — were eliminated in the first round.

The men's second seed had trouble with his serve early against Australian Wally Masur. But by the middle of the second set he looked like the player who has won here three times, diving after shots and sending rocket volleys into the corners to win 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Seles, the hottest player in tennis and the newly crowned French Open champion, overcame some second-set trouble to defeat American Camille Benjamin 6-3, 7-5.

Benjamin overpowered Seles at times with her serve-and-volley game but simply lacked the consistency to win. She led the second set 4-1, 40-0 but Seles



Becker stretches to return a forehand. (Reuters wirephoto)

the 16-year-old French Open champion, came to wrap up her 34th consecutive victory in straight sets.

Fifth-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States also advanced. She beat Cecilia Dahlman of Sweden 6-2, 6-1, losing just 14 points on her serve and winning the final six games after Dahlman broke for a 1-0 lead in the second set.

Women's 10th seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia won the last three games to beat Nicole Pietrangeli of the Netherlands 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

Brad Gilbert, the seventh seed and the top American left in the upset-hit men's field, beat Danie Visser of South Africa 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Tenth-seeded Jonas Svensson of Sweden advanced with a 6-3,

6-3, 6-4 victory over Malaivi Washington of the United States, and 11th-seeded Guy Forget beat Eric Jelen of West Germany 7-6, 6-7, 6-1, 6-2.

As this year's hopefuls were winning, a one-time contender played the final singles match of her career.

Hana Mandlikova, a finalist here in 1981 and '86, was eliminated by Ann Henricksson of the United States 6-3, 6-3. Mandlikova said before the tournament that she would retire from singles play after Wimbledon.

"I felt relieved and sad," Mandlikova said. "The only thing I'll ever regret is not winning here. It was my dream since childhood and I was in two finals. But I'll never have to be nervous or practice as hard as I always did."

Becker had trouble keeping his feet on the slippery grass in his opening match Monday. He did better this time, going 29 minutes before taking his first roll as he chased down a backhand on the baseline.

His serve was iffy in the first set. After staying on serve through the first 12 games, Becker gave Masur two set

points on a double fault, and the Australian closed it with a forehand crosscourt volley.

Becker got going in the second set. He saved four break points to go up 4-1, and closed a set of six service breaks with a passing shot down the line.

That string of breaks continued when Becker went up 2-0 in the third set, then held for 3-0 on a dropshot. In the fourth set, the West German broke for 2-1 and 4-1 and held for the match at love — the last three points on two service winners and an ace.

The tennis education of Jennifer Capriati continued yesterday with a lesson on how to curtsy to the royal box on Wimbledon's centre court.

Capriati's professional debut on centre court was one for the record books, as she became the youngest player ever to win a Wimbledon match with her 6-3, 6-1 triumph over Canada's Helen Klesi.

At the age of 14 years, 89 days, Capriati beat Kathy Rinaldi's 1981 record by two days.

"It was a moment I'll never forget," Capriati said of stepping onto the centre court grass. "It

was a great feeling. The day before, when I found out I was going on centre court, I was so happy I was jumping up and down because I couldn't believe they put me out there."

Then before I went out there, they taught me how to curtsy. I was thinking, "Oh my God, royalty at my first match on centre court" so that topped it all off."

Capriati is not the youngest player ever to participate at Wimbledon. That honour belongs to Austria's Mita Klima, who was 13 when she lost in the first round of the 1907 tournament.

However, the Floridian still has a chance at becoming the youngest Wimbledon champion in history. Great Britain's Lottie Dod was 15 years, 285 days when she won the 1887 title. If Capriati doesn't turn the trick this year, she'll have another chance to break the record in 1991.

"I don't know (about breaking the record). I hope so," Capriati said. "I'll just try my best and go hard in every match. I don't know if I can do it, but I hope I can do it."



Irish team meets Pope

Pope John Paul II puts his hand on Irish World Cup goalie Pat Bonner as he talks with the Irish team, who visited the Vatican yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Africa gets 3rd slot

ROME, June 27. (AP) — Fifa's president Jose Havelange says Africa has earned a third slot in the 1994 World Cup at the expense of Europe, following Cameroon's extraordinary success at the tournament.

"Africa will automatically get one more place," said Havelange in an interview published today by La Gazzetta dello Sport. "It deserves it. That place will be taken away from Europe."

The North and Central American region and Asia will also get a chance to increase their participation to three teams from two but only through a special qualifying series with South American and European nations, he said.

This could further weaken the presence of the traditional soccer powers of Europe and South America, which currently have 18 of the 24 slots in Italy's World Cup.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball games: Results of major League baseball games played in United States on Tuesday: American League: New York 8, Milwaukee 2; Cleveland Indians 5, Baltimore 3; Boston 3, Toronto 0; Minnesota 2, Texas 4; Chicago 11, California 9; Oakland 3, Detroit 2; Kansas City 4, Seattle 1. National League: Montreal 6, Chicago Cubs 5; Cincinnati 3, San Francisco 2; Pittsburgh 1, Philadelphia 0; Atlanta 4, Los Angeles 2; San Diego 7, Houston 0; N.Y. Mets 8, St. Louis 6.

Graf considers quitting Germany: Reigning Wimbledon tennis champion Steffi Graf says she is considering moving to the United States and not playing in Germany because of lurid newspaper headlines linking her father to a topless model. "I'm sorry to have to say this, but I hate these people," Graf was quoted as saying in the latest edition of the West German news magazine Stern. "I will never stop hating these people, who want to destroy my family just to boost the circulation of their newspapers," the West German world number one women's tennis player said.

Japanese find out about soccer: As World Cup fever rages in Italy, 18 Japanese soccer trainers are quietly taking lessons in how to develop the sport in their country, where it remains in its infancy. The trainers, who have already toured World Cup stadiums and filmed the games, began a five-day course today at Italy's national team headquarters of Coverciano on the outskirts of Florence.

Eight Italians arrested: Police arrested eight Italian soccer supporters in Rome early on Tuesday as thousands of people poured into the streets of the capital to celebrate Italy's 2-0 World Cup victory over Uruguay. They said the eight were arrested for throwing stones at police, damaging cars and resisting arrest towards the end of festivities marking Italy's advance to the quarterfinals.

Maradona has workout: Diego Maradona, ruled out of football practice by an ankle injury, worked out in the gymnasium on Tuesday in preparation for Argentina's World Cup quarterfinal against Yugoslavia. "Diego worked out in the gym. He felt some pain, but he's much better than yesterday," his personal trainer Fernando Signorini said. "But he's unlikely to practice football this week."

Beckenbauer happy for Charlton: Franz Beckenbauer said he was happy for his old World Cup adversary Jack Charlton that Ireland had beaten Romania and reached the quarterfinals. But Beckenbauer, who played against Charlton when England defeated West Germany in the 1966 final, reckons it will be the end of the road for Ireland when they meet Italy on Saturday.

Voeller suspension stands: Fifa yesterday affirmed the one-game suspension for West German striker Rudi Voeller and slapped Dutch defender Frank Rijkaard with a three-game ban for their angry exchange at a World Cup match. The international soccer federation also confirmed the yellow card for West German midfielder Lothar Matthaeus, who was booked for wasting time in West Germany's 2-1 victory over the Netherlands in Milan on Sunday.

Kristiansen blacklisted: Norwegian long distance runner Ingrid Kristiansen said she had been blacklisted by US immigration authorities for over-staying her visa and feared she might not be able to compete again in the United States. But the US embassy in Oslo said it would be willing to consider issuing new visas to Kristiansen, the world's fastest woman marathon runner and world record holder over 10,000 and 5,000 metres.

Record entry: A record 328 gymnasts from 16 countries will compete in the rhythmic sportive gymnastics four continents championship in Tokyo Aug 29-Sept 1, organisers said yesterday. The championship for gymnasts from North and South America, Oceania and Asia is one of four major rhythmic gymnastics events held by the International Gymnastics Federation. The others are the world championships, the World Cup and the European championships.

NBA draft: The New Jersey Nets, who are making deals before the National Basketball Association draft, aren't making any that involve their No. 1 pick. The Nets made their second trade in two days on Tuesday, sending Dennis Hopson, the No. 3 selection in 1987, to Chicago for the Bulls' 22nd pick in this year's first round. On Monday, New Jersey acquired veteran guard Reggie Theus.

US draw opener: Barry Daily and Chris Williams scored tries Tuesday, helping the US Eagles national rugby union team to a 13-13 draw against state team Queensland B, the first of the US squad's six-match Australian tour. Queensland scored its try coming 30 seconds into the game when five-eighth Mitchell Palm recovered his own kick for a score. But the US which will play the Australian national team in a Test match on July 8 at Brisbane, rallied strongly on defence.

Shaw must honour contract: Brian Shaw must honour his five-year contract with the Boston Celtics and terminate a deal with his preferred Italian team, a federal judge ruled Tuesday. However, Boston general manager Jan Volk said the Celtics can't go into Wednesday night's NBA draft assuming the point guard definitely will be on the team next season.

McEnroe plans return to the top: A chastened John McEnroe dismissed thoughts of retirement after his first round Wimbledon defeat by Derrick Rostagno on Tuesday and planned his return to the high performance level he once knew. "I'm going home now to try and get my act together. And there's a lot of act to get together. But I don't feel shot. I just feel wounded."

Top runners change events: World and Olympic running champions Abdi Bile of Somalia and Brahim Boutayeb of Morocco are the ones to beat as the IAAF Mohil Grand Prix circuit moves here. The first of 19 meets will be held in Helsinki before the final in September. Neither runner, however, will start in his premier event, the 1,500 metres for Bile and the 10,000 for Boutayeb.

PENTAX

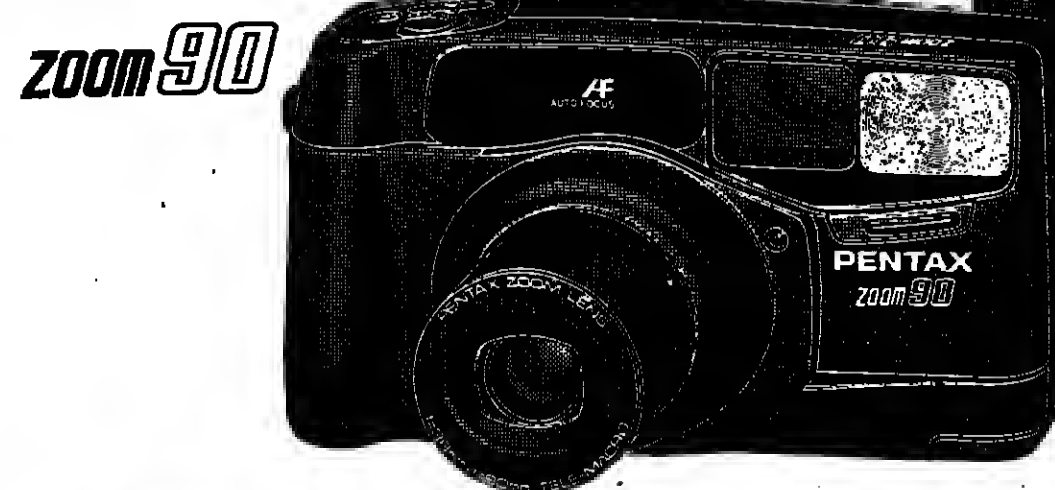
A Compact Camera Lineup For All People And Purposes



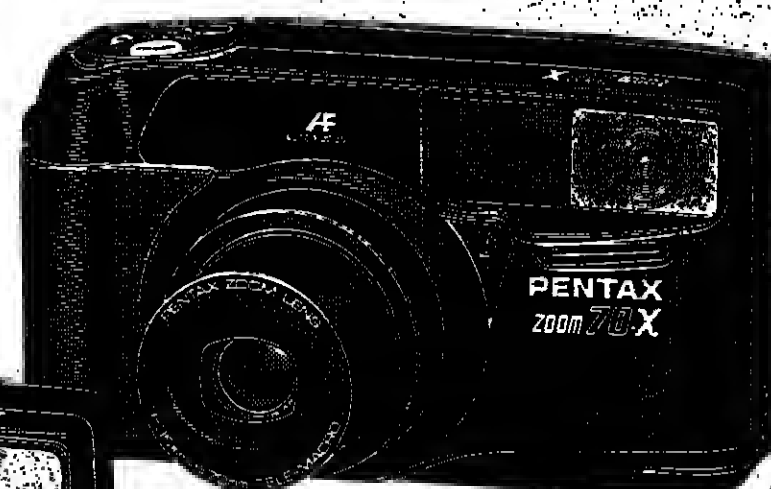
zoom 105 Super

zoom 105 Super This is the most powerfully capable compact camera Pentax has ever offered. It's an all-in-one that provides an incredible array of exciting possibilities. Beginning with a full 38mm-105mm zooming range, the Zoom 105 Super makes faraway subjects seem amazingly near. Macro and new super macro let you shoot virtually as close to a subject as you want. With sophisticated exposure compensation, you can adjust natural lighting as you wish. You can use multi-exposure, bulb, bulb-sync, and interval shooting to create intriguing special effects. A multi-frame self-timer takes up to 5 shots, and advanced flash functions, including daylight sync, flash on, slow-shutter-speed sync, work together with sophisticated metering to assure the right illumination for every situation. Yet that's still not everything it has or does. The Zoom 105 Super's definitely a camera you have to see to believe.

zoom 90

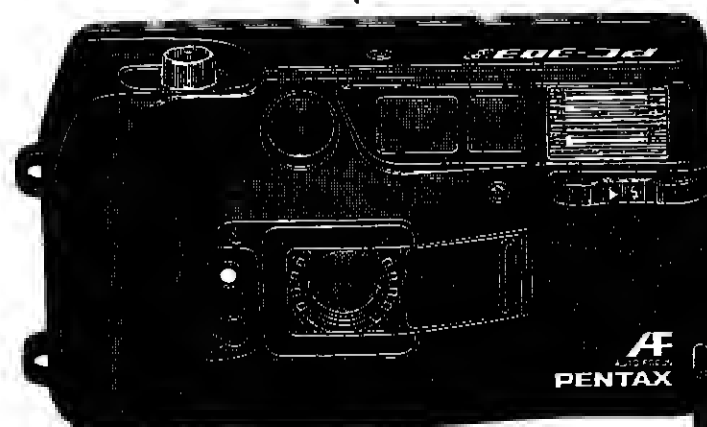


zoom 90 The versatile Zoom 90 gives full expression to your creative instincts. With flexible zooming from 38 mm-90 mm plus a macro setting for close-ups, it's easy to frame your subject just as you like. Focus lock offers important compositional opportunity and additional creative effects are available via features like multi-exposure, interval timer, bulb, bulb-timer, and self-timer with dual-frame mode. A built-in flash provides illumination as it's needed, day or night, whereas backlight compensation helps assure proper exposure in difficult backlighting situations. These features and more make the Zoom 90 an outstandingly creative camera that's amazingly easy to use.

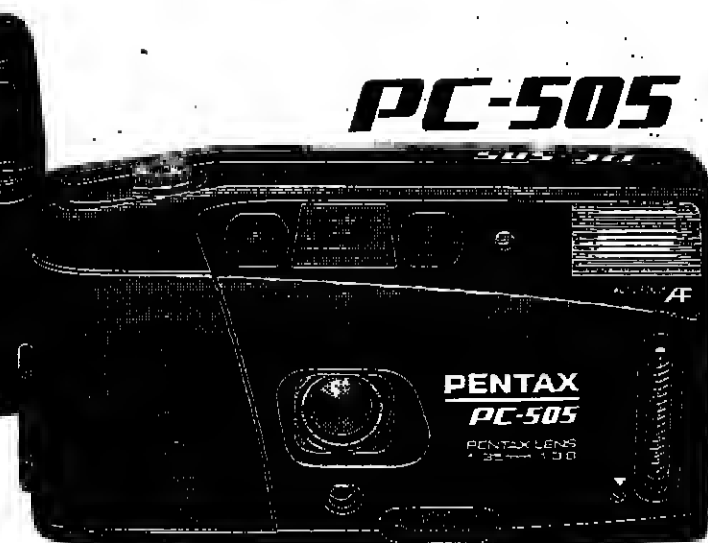


zoom 70-X

zoom 70-X This superior zoom compact's basic functions, from film handling to focus and exposure, are fully automatic. 35 mm-70 mm zoom capability plus a macro setting provides an ample choice of focal lengths. Other useful and creative features include multi-exposure, self-timer with dual-frame mode, backlight compensation, flash modes (auto flash, daylight sync, slow shutter sync), focus lock, and bulb mode.



PC-303S



PC-505

PC-505 Here's a pocket-sized compact that takes the sharp, bright pictures you expect. Automatic focus, exposure, flash control, and film handling make everything as easy as can be. A self-timer gets you into the picture and a shutter release lock helps protect against accidental triggering.

PC-303S Shoot in a second at parties, picnics, and wonderful smiles. A foolproof point-and-shoot 205-gram technological wonder with built-in flash, this easy-to-use Pentax has auto frame advance and one-action rewind. Be in your own pictures with the self-timer. Auto day/date imprinting. A good-looking high performer.

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